



Ikebana International

Washington, D. C. Chapter No. 1, Inc.

Dear I. I. Friends:

A number of you have written to me asking for a newspaper clipping and more details concerning recent activities and the unexpected death of our dear Founder, Ellen G. Allen.

Looking back a month, we knew that she thoroughly enjoyed the Sixth North American Regional Conference in San Francisco. (I was so sorry to have missed a conference for the first time since they began).

On May 10th, Ellen and General Allen celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with a lovely dinner party for over 100 friends and members of their family at the Fort Myer Officers Club. Ellen looked beautiful in a gold dress, - since that time we have been calling her our "golden girl". (She was laid to rest in her golden dress). A high light of the evening was the attendance of Mrs. Mamie Eisenhower, who was present at their 25th wedding anniversary; also Madame Ushiba, of the Embassy of Japan.

Prof. and Mrs. Hakushu Tsujii visited our Chapter in late May and presented a Saga Program. We had many gay parties while they were here. He presented Ellen with the lovely Saga School's bronze Shogonka container.

The last week, we all attended the I. I. Board Meeting on Tuesday, June 6. After the meeting Ellen and I went to see Mrs. Monat, our travel agent, to lay plans for the London Symposium Tour for April, 1973. Ellen installed the officers at our I. I. luncheon on Thursday, June 8, and was jolly and gay as usual. We talked that night and she planned to go to the Georgetown Convent (her school) to attend an all day retreat on Friday, June 9th. General Allen called me at 10:30 P. M., Friday and said "Medrith, I have some bad news, Ellen died at 9:00 P. M." I was so shocked, I could hardly talk! He said she came home from the Convent very tired and laid down to rest. The attack struck about 6 P. M. She was rushed

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Obituaries

THE SUNDAY STAR
Washington, D. C.
June 11, 1972

Mrs. Frank A. Allen Jr., 74, Founder of Flower Society

Mrs. Frank A. Allen Jr., 74, founder of the international flower-arranging society Ikebana, died yesterday at George Washington University Hospital after a heart attack at her home on Wyoming Avenue NW. *JUNE 7.*

When the former Ellen Gordon graduated from Georgetown Visitation Convent School in Georgetown in 1916, she received its Loretto Medal for general excellence. She served as the school's alumni association president in 1949.

In 1922 she married Army Maj. Gen. Frank A. Allen Jr., now retired who served in World Wars I and II and in Korea, as well as on Gen. MacArthur's staff in Japan.

She started Ikebana International, a Japanese style flower arranging society which now has more than 10,000 members, in 1953. In 1965 she received the Fifth Order of the Precious Crown, an honor given by the Japanese government with the authorization of the emperor.

She was a member of the Army Daughters, the Junior Army-Navy Guild Organization, the Christ Child Society, the Seton Guild, the Japan-



Mrs. Frank A. Allen Jr.

America Society and the Washington-Tokyo Club.

Besides her husband, she leaves two sons, Col. Walter G., of Arlington, and Frank III, of New York City; two daughters, Mrs. Laura Weir of Loudonville, N.Y., and Mrs. Douglas Poage of Alexandria, and 12 grandchildren.

Services will be held at 11:45 a.m. Tuesday in Ft. Myer Chapel, with burial in Arlington Cemetery.

to the hospital where she never rallied. General Allen called Wayne Todd, past president - not being able to contact our president, Mrs. Godbey - and the two of us called I. I. members until midnight.

Saturday A. M., Mrs. Godbey, our chapter president, Louise McKenzie, past president, and Hallie Pearson (Wayne and Hallie helped Ellen a lot with editing) and I went to the Allen home to assist in anyway we could. Mrs. Godbey telephoned Tokyo Headquarters for instructions and notification of chapters and friends. Telegrams were dispatched by Carolyn Marsh to all the chapters in North America *and Canada* and cables sent to world-wide chapter members.

Ellen had made all of her funeral plans. She had written them out and given them to Wayne Todd in 1968. She had told us "after my funeral you are to come back to the apartment for a party, no weeping, I want a gay party". Several years ago she had asked Irma Crawmer (Baltimore) and me to see that there was ikebana for her funeral. I made a Shogonka arrangement in the new Saga School bronze container, and placed it at the head of her casket; Irma Crawmer made a handsome Sogetsu arrangement in a bronze Sunabachi on a table nearby, - and Hallie Pearson made a lovely Ohara arrangement for another table in the room. Many floral pieces were contributed and placed in the adjoining room. Her daughters, Laura and Mary, requested two ikebana arrangements for the Ft. Myer Chapel altar. Irma Crawmer made these arrangements and they were placed on the Communion table, as suggested by the attending priest. The beautiful Communion Mass was offered and dear Ellen was laid to rest in a lovely part of Arlington Cemetery, - just across the drive from the area where her parents (General and Mrs. Walter Henry Gordon) are buried. (Fort Gordon, Georgia, was named for Ellen's Father).

Following the services, as she requested, about 75 friends and relatives returned to the Allen home for a buffet luncheon. This was hosted by the family, the Bethesda-Chevy Chase I. I. Workshop and other I. I. members. Numerous times during the afternoon, as little groups conversed, I fully expected to turn and see Ellen at my shoulder asking "What are you all talking about?" And no doubt she was there.

We will miss her so very much! Let us all carry on for her as she wished, with "Friendship through Flowers".

Medrith Striker

MEDRITH STRIKER

First President (1956-58)

Washington, D. C., Chapter #1, Inc.

Helen A. Godbey

HELEN GODBEY

President (1971-73)



ELLEN GORDON ALLEN

GVC 1911-1916

All was joy for the Allen family on May 10, when they united in celebrating, at Fort Myer, Va., the fiftieth wedding anniversary of Ellen Gordon Allen '16 and her husband, Major General Frank A. Allen, Jr., USA, Ret., of whom she was so justly proud. The invitation sent to the Sisters bore a plea in Ellen's familiar handwriting for "prayers of thanksgiving for the past, . . . and for the future too." This request, and some remarks made to different persons at the Day of Recollection on June 9, gave us cause to wonder if God himself was preparing Ellen for the end. Supposition it may be, but actually on June 10, even before those attending the annual reunion of the Alumnae Association had begun to gather, word of Ellen's sudden death the night before was being circulated by telephone and telegraph. A massive heart attack had necessitated rushing her to George Washington University Hospital, where she breathed her last shortly after arrival. Knowing Ellen as we do, we are grateful that she was spared a lingering illness and that her last day on earth was spent in recollection at GVC, her Alma Mater.

Ellen Overcomes Her Father's Objections

When her parents, Major General and Mrs. Walter Gordon, placed Ellen at Georgetown in September 1911, she was within a few weeks of her fifteenth birthday. With her it was love at first sight, but her father was not completely satisfied. She told us many times in the years that followed that his one objection to the school to which she was so deeply attached was the lack of a physical education program. He contended that spiritual and intellectual development was not enough for the young; they needed sports as well, not only for their physical well-being but also for the character training that goes with team work and with learning how to lose as well as to win. Ellen set to work to overcome this handicap. That her efforts were successful is proved by the development from year to year of the Athletic Association, which has long been so firmly established that the presidency of this organization has become one of the coveted honors of the senior

year. She would wish mention here of her everlasting gratitude to Sister Claude Agnes Keedy, the directress who seconded and supported her efforts as first president of the association. When Ellen graduated in 1916, she was awarded the Loretto Medal for general excellence, proof positive that her father's argument in favor of physical education was a valid one; it had not impeded her spiritual and intellectual growth.

Not much more than a year later we were drawn into World War I, and, characteristically, Ellen took up shorthand and typing with a view to preparing herself to do her small part in the services of her country. Incidentally, it was fortunate for her that the typists of her young days were not submitted to the tests that must be passed at the present times. In spite of questionable skill in this field, however, she typed until her very last days, achieving things that, under the pressures of her Army life, would otherwise never have been accomplished.

An Army Daughter Becomes an Army Wife and Mother

In 1922 she married "Honk," then a young Army officer, and together they reared two sons and two daughters. The girls followed in their mother's footsteps, completing the high school course at GVC, Laura Allen Weir '43 and Mary Allen Poage '45. The elder son followed his father in dedicating himself to his country's service in the U.S. Army and marrying another GVC graduate, Martha Ryan Allen JC'48. The younger son, Frank A. Allen III, is still unmarried. Ellen dearly loved her twelve grandchildren.

She Founds Ikebana International

While their own family was growing up, the Allens traveled far and wide, residing in Washington only at intervals. General Allen served in both World Wars and in Korea and was also on General MacArthur's staff in Japan. Perhaps it was at this time that the love for everything Japanese, in particular their flower arrangement, inspired Ellen to use her genius for organization to found Ikebana International in 1957. We shall leave it to her associates in this world-wide group to express their love for their leader and their loyalty to her memory in their own way. Suffice it to say here that she let it be known everywhere that she was a graduate of Georgetown Visitation Convent. In 1967 Ikebana International awarded \$100 to a GVC art student to help in a small way her further study in the field of art. At the time it was hoped that this could become an annual award, but Ellen's letter of June 4, 1972, told us that, because of financial problems in Japan and the devaluation of the currency, she had asked the Board to send the scholarship money to Japan this year to relieve the situation there.

Hers was a Life-Long Dedication to Georgetown Visitation

Ellen was always, quite literally, an active alumna. In her own words, everything she was able to support or "accomplish was a real joy—and a real reward." Although not the original instigator of the plan to build the gymnasium, she was a member of the Building Committee that

brought it to completion. She became the first prefect of the Alumnae Sodality of the Children of Mary, which began meeting once a month in October 1924.

In June 1947 Ellen was elected president of the Alumnae Association, an office which provided countless opportunities for exercising her initiative, generosity, and persevering zeal for the welfare of her Alma Mater. Her term of office was interrupted at the end of the third year by Colonel Allen's call to duty on General MacArthur's staff in Japan. On retiring from her active service, Ellen herself listed her three major achievements as follows: 1) Representation of the Junior Alumnae Group on the Executive Committee; 2) the setting up of an Alumnae Office at Lalor House; 3) the employing of an Executive Secretary.

All who have served the Association in the intervening years are witnesses to its increased efficiency of operation under her regime and have happily followed her example. The judicious

choice of her first Executive Secretary, Catharine E. Nolan, who held this office from January 15, 1949, until 1964, contributed in large measure to the successful and efficient running of the Association.

For the celebration of the Convent's Sesqui-centennial in 1949, Ellen is entitled to much credit for the way in which she placed the resources of the Association at the disposition of the Sisters at this important period of their history. That she owed to her God-given gifts of grace and nature her success in her numerous undertakings was apparent to all, and we cannot close this account of her lifetime association with Georgetown Visitation Convent without mentioning her deep and abiding faith, her devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, her warmth of affection, and her happy disposition. Not every one can laugh at herself, but Ellen knew how to do this. May she now enjoy for evermore the eternal fruits gathered during her lifetime. For this we pray and ask you to join in the same intention.

COLLEGE BOUND

September will find the graduates of 1972 matriculating at the following colleges and universities:

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY—Lisa Phillips, Beth Rubacky
BELOIT COLLEGE—Sikandra Spain
BOSTON COLLEGE—Mikey Buschman
BOSTON UNIVERSITY—Michele Chirieleison,
Karen Kendrick
CHOWAN COLLEGE—Ann Kilcoyne
COLLEGE OF WOOSTER—Nell Trimarchi
CORNELL UNIVERSITY—Paula Cassell
DICKINSON COLLEGE—Marylee Beyer
DUNBARTON COLLEGE—Johanna Noguera
DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY—Ann Healy, Kim Morley
EMMANUEL—Christina Ham
FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY—Mary Ryan
GEORGE MASON COLLEGE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
VIRGINIA—Silvia Bertran
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY—Alex Calcagno,
Doina Dobrin, Alice Marie Fleury, Manorama Gotur,
Maria Menendez
School of Nursing—Marialice Foster, Margo Mattimore
GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY—Eileen Stewart
HOLLINS COLLEGE—Susan Schneider
MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY—Joyce Donnelly
MARYMOUNT COLLEGE (Florida)—Mary Louise Toomey
MARYMOUNT COLLEGE (Virginia)—Noreen Shea
MARYVILLE COLLEGE—Mara Welch
MARY WASHINGTON COLLEGE—Mary Bigley,
Katie Fleury, Susan Stimpfle, Laura Ungerleider
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY—Maryellen Deale

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE—Nancy Borger, Eileen Casey,
Emily Reap
MOUNT ST. MARY'S COLLEGE (Emmitsburg, Md.)—
Georgianna Scott
NEWCOMB COLLEGE/TULANE UNIVERSITY—
Michelle Carroccio
NEWTON COLLEGE—Margarita Bogran
RADFORD COLLEGE—Deborah Murphy
SMITH COLLEGE—Karen Richardson
SPRING HILL COLLEGE—Ginna Burke, Maureen Carlin,
Cathy Robertson, Maureen Silk
STONEHILL COLLEGE—Mary Clark
ST. LEO COLLEGE—Sara Dorsey
ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE (Vermont)—Susan McCarthy
ST. MARY'S COLLEGE NOTRE DAME—Ruth Suter
ST. MARY'S DOMINICAN COLLEGE (New Orleans)—
Ellen Fishburne
SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE—Terese De Grandi
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY—Terri Smith
UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA—Catherine Cotter
UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON—Peggy O'Donnell
UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS (India)—Mallika Chelliah
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND—Cathy Connor, Linda Meyer
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN—Leslie Nestingen
VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY—Mary Beth McAteer
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE—Penny Rutledge
WELLESLEY COLLEGE—Jaynie Miller
WHEATON COLLEGE—Theresa Hong
WHEELING COLLEGE—Mary Katherine Kehoe

BILINGUAL SUMMER PROGRAM

The summer community project at GVC in 1972 took the form of a bilingual program for children between the ages of 6 and 12. Sponsored by the Public Schools of the District of Columbia, the program is being developed to meet new educational needs which have arisen in various areas of the city where the number of non-English speaking or bilingual children is rapidly increasing.

Experimenting with new curriculum materials developed solely for a bilingual program, the group at Visitation was monitored largely through the Oyster School of the District of Columbia, where Georgetown Visitation students have for

several years given volunteer service as part of their Catholic Action activities.

Under the guidance of thirty specially trained instructors, forty children spent five days a week, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., during the month of July in bilingual classroom and recreational occupations. Ten students from Visitation participated as teacher aides, some of whom had worked at the Oyster School during the past year or who hope to continue during the coming year.

Regular classes were preceded by an orientation week for instructors from June 26-30 and followed by a two-week evaluating period.

MRS. FRANK A. ALLEN, JR.

Mrs. Ellen Gordon Allen, beloved wife of Major General Frank A. Allen, Jr., U.S.A. Retired, died on the evening of June 9, 1972.

Mrs. Allen was born on September 21, 1897, in Wilmington, Delaware, where her father, Major General Walter Henry Gordon, was stationed at the University of Delaware. She attended the Georgetown Visitation Convent of Washington, D.C., graduating with the highest honor—the Loretta Medal for general excellence. She was President of the Alumnae Association in 1949, the sesquicentennial year of the school.

On May 10, 1922, she married Captain Frank A. Allen, Jr., U.S. Cavalry, at Fort Benning, Georgia, where General Gordon was in command.

As an Army daughter and wife, Mrs. Allen lived in many places of the world: the Philippines, China, Japan, Europe and many parts of the United States.

Always an active person, Mrs. Allen's chief interest has been the study of Japanese flower arrangement—ikebana. When she took her first lesson in 1950 while living at Camp Drake, just northwest of Tokyo, Japan, (Brigadier General Allen was with the 1st Cavalry Division in Korea at the time), she said, "I fell in love with this beautiful art of Japan." In 1956, at the time of General Allen's retirement, Mrs. Allen returned to Japan for further study. It was at this time, she said, that she "accidentally"

founded Ikebana International, a nonprofit, cultural association of persons interested in Japanese flower arranging. Receiving the backing of Japan's greatest flower masters—Mr. Houn Ohara, Mr. Sofu Teshigahara, Mr. Koshu Tsujii and Mr. Senei Ikenobo—Mrs. Allen set up the International Headquarters in Tokyo. The motto of the organization which has grown to 11,000 members in over 175 chapters in over sixty countries, is "Friendship Through Flowers." In 1965, at the first Ikebana International World Convention in Tokyo, Mrs. Allen, with the authorization of the Emperor of Japan, received the "Fifth Order of the Precious Crown" (a decoration for women) for spreading world-wide the arts of Japan.

Among the other organizations in which Mrs. Allen took an active part are the Junior League of Washington, The Georgetown Visitation Convent Alumnae Association, Army Daughters, The Junior Army-Navy Guild Organization, the Christ Child Society, the Seton Guild, the Japan-America Society and the Washington-Tokyo Women's Club. With all these activities, however, Mrs. Allen's first love was the Service, and she took as her own the motto of the U.S. Military Academy: "Duty, Honor, Country." During all her world-wide travels she loved Washington, D.C., and considered it her home.

Mrs. Allen is survived by her husband, Major General Frank A. Allen, Jr. (Retired); her sons, Colonel W. Gordon Allen, U.S.A., and Mr. Frank A. Allen, III; her daughters, Mrs. Laura A. Weir, and Mrs. Douglas W. Poage, Jr., and twelve grandchildren. Funeral Services were held on June 13 at the Fort Myer Chapel. Interment will be in Arlington National Cemetery.

(Contributed by the Washington, D.C. Chapter)



Smiling happily, Ellen Gordon Allen poses beside her Ohara arrangement for the 6th North American Regional Conference. Her joy in seeing and being with her "Ikebana Family" in San Francisco is very evident.

A Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated June 20 in the military chapel Mrs. Allen attended when she lived in Tokyo. The altar was graced with the floral offerings of Hoga Fujiwara, Mrs. Allen's first ikebana teacher and Koha Taira for the Ohara School. The identical twin baskets were magnificent tributes of all white blooms—dozens of rose buds, accented with carnations and sprays of butterfly orchids that cascaded down through the bright green and white branchlets of Solomon's seal. A sorrowful occasion solaced by the beauty that only flowers can bring.

To all of you, our saddened worldwide membership, may we say thank you so much for the many telegrams and messages of deep sympathy on the passing of our beloved Founder of Ikebana International, Ellen Gordon Allen. They will be of great comfort to General Allen and his family. All memorial gifts are being placed in the Founder's Fund established at the Second World Convention.

Mrs. Allen's demise leaves a great void in our organization and in the hearts of all who knew and loved her as a wise and far sighted counselor and leader. Her exuberance and enthusiasm for all she believed in so heartily, the inexhaustible inspiration and love which emanated from her personality as Founder of this world renowned organization will live long in the memories of those fortunate enough to have known her.

Her unstinted devotion to ikebana activities and her especial charm have touched countless persons throughout the world. What greater tribute can we pay than to ensure the perpetuation and continued fulfillment of her own words on August 17, 1956, at the first meeting for the establishment of Ikebana International, "I see no reason why Ikebana International cannot become a veritable garland of flowers surrounding the world with beauty and binding us all together in a real and lasting friendship—a magnificent contribution from Japan to the world at large."



Ikebana International

OUR FOUNDERS STORY
AND
HISTORY OF CHAPTER # 1



Ikebana International

OUR FOUNDERS STORY AND HISTORY OF CHAPTER # 1

"Friendship through Flowers"

Dedicated to the Memory of
ELLEN GORDON ALLEN
Founder of Ikebana International
and
Member of Chapter No. 1

Washington, D.C.
1976

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Washington, D.C.
1976

FOREWORD

Prior to the death of our Founder, Ellen Gordon Allen, on June 9, 1972, she had written her story of the founding of Ikebana International in Tokyo, August 17, 1956. Mrs. Allen adopted the motto "Friendship through Flowers" which was suggested by Stella Coe of England.

We hope this booklet will be a source of information and pleasure to every member and friend of Ikebana International. The story of the founding, the establishment of Chapter No. 1 in Washington, D.C., chapter events of the past twenty years, excerpts from articles and speeches and anecdotes have been gathered together in order to preserve these memories.

Medrith Striker

First President—1956-1958

Washington, D.C. Chapter No. 1, Inc.



**Ellen Gordon Allen, Founder
Ikebana International**

THE MAGIC CARPET OF IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL

Ellen Gordon Allen

On August 17, 1956, I founded Ikebana International in Tokyo, Japan at the then Washington Heights Club and no one was more surprised than I. And now to my utter delight the organization has succeeded! We can truly say this as we have Chapters, Study Groups and Members-at-Large all over the world. In fact, the sun never sets on Ikebana International members.

What led to this extraordinary achievement? It is a very simple story and I finally decided to write about its founding.

In 1949, the year before I went to Japan, I was serving my third year as the President of the Georgetown Visitation Convent Alumnae Association, a school I dearly loved. We were celebrating the Sesquicentennial of the founding of this distinguished school. A benefit Flower Show was staged in the gymnasium of the Convent. This was the period of a movement that was progressing towards unifying the local garden clubs into one organization which is now the National Capital Area Federation of Garden Clubs. But I had nothing to do with this wonderful exhibition.

When the day came to put on the show, I was simply overcome by the activity. Cars rolling up, women all over the place, buckets of flowers and vases being carried into the gymnasium. I was just dumbfounded as to what it was all about.

There were over four hundred flower arrangements, beautifully arranged and beautifully displayed.

The wife of our President, Mrs. Harry Truman, together with the Flower Show Committee opened the show. The show was competitive and this added to the excitement.

It so happened that a Mrs. Arthur F. Striker was the tri-color winner for the best in show. I had never met Mrs. Striker before, but got to know her much better as she was later one of the major promoters of Ikebana and Ikebana International and the first president of the first chapter founded outside of Japan, now known as Ikebana International, Washington, D.C. Chapter No. 1, Inc.

At the last meeting of the Flower Show Committee, which I attended as we were winding up the affairs of the Exhibit, Mrs. Herbst, Chairman of the Flower Show, said to me (this was the major step toward Ikebana International) "Ellen, I hear you are going to Japan and when you do, study Japanese Flower Arrangement. You'll have the most marvelous opportunity, so take advantage of it." She also added that the Japanese

really introduced flower arrangement into this country about fifty or more years ago. At that time, I had never belonged to a Garden Club and I knew practically nothing about gardening.

Then in 1950, General Allen departed for Japan, to join the First Cavalry Division. Later, when my major obligations at home were finished, I joined him.

As we approached within radio distance of Japan, I had a message from General Allen, "Welcome to Japan with Blondie (our cocker spaniel) and her pups."

A truck met us for the baggage and Blondie and her pups and away we went to my charming Japanese house. The house had a beautiful enclosed garden and the pups could frolic at will wherever they wished with Blondie.

I have never known a more confusing dinner than the one given in my honor that first evening. I was meeting many new people. I was utterly at sea when one of the ladies said, "Mrs. Allen, we realize you are very busy settling, nevertheless, we would love to have you join our Japanese Flower Arrangement Class on Monday." I said, "Why not?" I had a house running superbly and all I had to do was unpack. So, I accepted.

This was the first step toward eventually influencing me to establish an Ikebana Association, which naturally, I never dreamed of then. I went to my first lesson on Monday. We had an English speaking teacher, Mrs. Hoga Fujiwara. All the members of the class were very advanced. Mrs. Fujiwara made an arrangement for me and tried to explain. Then she said, "Now I'll take everything out and you re-do it." But with that first arrangement made by Mrs. Fujiwara I fell in love with Japanese Flower Arranging and my love of this glorious art has never changed.

I studied avidly, as all the students were much better than I. Even at home in the evenings I would work in our dining room with one of the staff observing. They must have been in agony seeing the awful things I did, but I persevered.

We had much to do during these "war days in Korea" with the Red Cross, our own special Cavalry Division Canteen, and bolstering the morale of the wives who remained in Japan. We took trips all over Japan and made the best of it. Finally when the Korean war was over we moved to Yokohama where General Allen was the Commander. We had a lovely house overlooking the bay, affording a constant view of small boats with their white sails billowing.

I had improved a great deal in Ikebana but above all, I wanted to continue my lessons with my beloved teacher, Mrs. Fujiwara. We had another class organized and I continued. After a few months we were ordered to Tokyo. Again we had a lovely house and once again, I organized a special class with my same teacher.

One day Mrs. Fujiwara telephoned me to say that Mr. Ohara wished to call on me and he would like to have some pictures taken. Mr. Ohara is the Headmaster of the Ohara School and this was a most unusual experience as the great masters rarely do this.

General Allen managed to get hold of an excellent photographer. At that time, Mr. Ohara presented me with my Teachers Certificate from the Ohara School.

Too soon, our two years were up and it was time for us to return home. Mrs. Fujiwara and I thought we would never see each other again. I can't tell you the number of times I saw her after that sad farewell. Due to the founding of Ikebana International, I returned to Japan many times and Mrs. Fujiwara visited us here in the United States.

We were ordered to Fort Gordon, Georgia. Georgia is a state that is filled with all the materials anyone would ever want for Ikebana arrangements. Oh, what a joy for me, now that I was equipped to teach!

The second major influence leading to the founding of Ikebana International took place here. I taught Ikebana just as I had been taught. I called it the "show you how method." Some of the class members said to me, "Why don't you write some definite information with sketches." I began to make plans to mimeograph sheets to give to the students. At no time would I accept any pay for programs except a small fee for gasoline and to purchase flowers.

To make a long story short, when I got into it I really got into it. I had a manuscript! I had to engage and pay an artist to draw the designs and a photographer to take the pictures of a very simple arrangement, and an editor. The editor was a Captain Wasko, who could only work with me on Saturdays. In other words, I had written a book and the mimeographed sheets had gone with the wind.

Eventually it was completed, and I called it Japanese Flower Arrangement in a Nutshell, a Primer. That is all it is—A Primer.

Finally Captain Wasko, my editor said, "This book is in perfect shape, why not publish it yourself?" I was shocked by such a question. How much money would be involved? Perhaps the book would not be successful. But he got a price from the Tidwell Printing Firm, a distinguished printer in Augusta, Georgia. The cost in the end was much more than the original price quoted. Capt. Wasko asked, "Shall I go ahead and tell Mr. Tidwell to print?" I replied, "Yes."

I was very busy at that time with my class and had no time to really discuss the details. I recalled that I had a bond which I could sell if it was a failure and at least pay the bill. I went downstairs to my class, really shaking after I had made this decision and I said to my class, "Well, you'll all have to sell the book" and they agreed. Without their help I could not have managed.



Master Houn Ohara, Ohara School, presents graduate certificate to Ellen Gordon Allen, Tokyo 1951.



Ellen Allen's first class in Ikebana, November 2, 1952, Camp Gordon, Augusta, Georgia. (U.S. Army photo) From left to right: Mrs. Petrillo, Mrs. W. H. Metzner, Mrs. Dingeman, Mrs. H. R. Perkins, Pres. Augusta Garden Council; Mrs. Paul Cooper, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. M. C. Miller, Mrs. Brega pouring.

The paper covered book sold for \$2.00. It was beautifully done but that was quite a price for a paper-back. I had to sell it at that price to come out even, which was all I hoped for. Tidwell's got busy and promised the book by December of 1952! To be sure that the book would be in the Christmas sales category I decided we would offer three copies for \$5.00 on advance orders.

As early December approached I was frantic for fear the book would not be out in time but Augusta helped me. Advertisements for the book appeared in all the papers. I did not advertise the book, but others did. The Davidson Department Stores, The Green Thumb, and suddenly, the book was all over the place. My faithful students did the same amazing promotion job.

How many copies to print? I asked my good friend, the late Mr. Samuel H. Kaufman of the Morning Star and he said, "5000 copies." But I was afraid and only ordered 3000 copies. I thought we would be more than lucky if we sold enough to cover the cost. I was wrong and should have ordered 5000 copies printed. I had nightmares about the book as I could dream of nobody buying. I also knew nothing about auto-graphing parties. Davidson's did that for me. Off the books went, like hot cakes, because everyone was helping.

Again, through the late Mrs. Eleanor Merry Edmunds, the contact was made for me at Rich's in Atlanta for a program. I got no pay as I didn't even have enough sense to ask for expenses.

Just before I gave my program, General Allen received orders to Washington, D.C. and had to depart promptly. I managed the packing of our household goods as quickly as possible, then went to Atlanta accompanied by two dear and faithful friends who had volunteered to assist me with the program.

As Mrs. Edmunds, the Director of the Garden Center at Rich's remarked later, "The program was a bit over the heads of the audience at that time." It was made up principally of Garden Club members. Ikebana was so new in this country in 1953. Nevertheless, everyone was most gracious to me and I believe we had about 350 attending.

I worked up the plans for the program in the Rich's Garden Center with Mrs. Edmunds assisting me, but, as she said later, she really had no idea what I was doing. The books sold beautifully. Hip, hip, hurrah!

Just before I gave my program to Rich's and after my book was published, I sent a complimentary copy of it to my dear friend Mrs. Mary Buckingham, the wife of a Vice President of Woodward and Lothrop's Department Store of Washington, D.C. Mrs. Buckingham liked it very much. Later I sent her a copy of my invitation to present the program at Rich's and to my surprise, I was invited to present the program in Washington, D.C. after my arrival. In fact, I gave three programs under the sponsorship of Woodward and Lothrop.

Woodward and Lothrop followed the plans of Rich's and invited members of the Garden Clubs to attend the program. Mrs. Herbst and her other associates had consolidated these groups into what is now the National Capital Area Federation of Garden Clubs.

For my program at Woodward and Lothrop I had the good fortune to find in Washington a number of my Ikebana classmates with whom I had studied in Japan. It seemed to me a very appropriate idea for these fine Ikebana arrangers to assist me in the program as "ushers." I invited them to do so and, of course, to wear kimonos. I also felt that since I was presenting the great art of Japan, Ikebana, it would be courteous to invite some of the ladies of the Embassy of Japan to attend the program. After all, it was JAPAN'S ART. Though at that time I knew no one at the Embassy of Japan I arranged to call upon the Publications Officer and explain what I had in mind and why. I simply felt that it was proper to have some Japanese ladies present. To my delight and surprise the Public Relations Officer telephoned and said that some of the ladies of the Embassy would attend. About twenty or more were present for my program, wearing their beautiful kimonos and this added great dignity to the occasion.

Again, the same "business set-up" was in force, where I was concerned, to sell the books. The following Sunday a delightful story with pictures of my arrangements appeared in the Sunday Supplement of the Evening Star. This was due to the interest and kindness of the late Mr. Samuel H. Kauffman, who had also guided me with the book and hence assisted to promote it.

Thus, "Ikebana" had its debut at two of our leading stores, Rich's of Atlanta, Georgia and Woodward and Lothrop of Washington, D.C.

Now a very strange experience and, for me, a remarkable experience took place. One evening, Mrs. Beth McKinney called me and asked if I could give an Ikebana Program her Garden Club, Neighborhood Garden Club of Arlington. Everyone was most kind and gracious to me. They came up to the stage of the Mt. Olivet Methodist Church where the program was held to see the arrangements. Then they served refreshments and I had a most pleasant social evening. But the most important occurrence at the time, which had a profound influence on the spread of Ikebana, was that one of the ladies at this program was a Mrs. Arthur F. Striker who was especially interested in Ikebana. Later Mrs. Striker studied with me and assisted me in the revision of my book. We became the most intimate and close friends and we have remained so for many long years. Later, I discovered this was the very person who years ago, before I went to Japan, had won the tri-color ribbon for the best in show at the Georgetown Visitation Convent.

In 1954, General Allen received his orders to be Chief of Military Assistance Group at the American Embassy in Rome, Italy. What a thrill to have the privilege of living in the Eternal City. He would be on the staff of her Excellency, Mrs. Clare Booth Luce, our Ambassador to Italy.

I just could not believe that I was in the Eternal City! The morning following our arrival I awakened fairly early. There was a porch or wide balcony right off my room. I opened the doors and there was Rome, the umbrella trees, the glorious sky. Just then the chimes of various monasteries began to ring. It seemed like a prayer "Glory to God in the highest and Peace on Earth with Good Will to me!" I will never forget that first morning.

Shortly thereafter our household goods arrived and we promptly unpacked. I made plans for my Ikebana classes. The villa adapted itself beautifully to Japanese flower arrangements—Ikebana.

Finally I had completed organizing my International Ikebana Classes and they were held in a semi-rotunda space which had a raised floor. This was very good as there was a platform and everyone could see as I did the demonstrations. The students sat in chairs before me with tables for the vases and containers so that everyone had sufficient space to work.

My assistant at that time was Mrs. Nan Vivian and we managed nicely. Later when Mrs. Vivian had to return to the States, Berma McDowell, wife of Captain Ralph McDowell, U.S. Navy, assisted me. Of course we always had a nice "coffee break" and this was a time to relax and visit. We teachers purchased flowers at the Flower Market. The branches and shrubs we would only manage to get by begging and pinching!

I was privileged to meet Mrs. Ken Harada and His Excellency Ken Harada, the Japanese Ambassador to Italy. She was a most delightful person, full of charm, gentle and a perfect example of what the wife of an Ambassador should be. She, too, became interested in my classes and when possible came to the many graduations. Always when there, she presented the little personal certificates for me to my students for having successfully completed a course in Ikebana. These certificates always stated the number of hours of study and were signed by me as Teacher of the Ohara School of Ikebana.

Also attending the classes were the wives of the American Embassy, many foreigners, one Chinese lady and Madam Jayanama, the wife of the Ambassador from Thailand. Of all of my students, Madam Jayanama was one that kept closely in touch with me these many years. Not too many years ago, when I went around the world visiting our Chapters, we stopped off in Thailand where Madam Jayanama gave my friend, the late Mrs. Eleanor Bosworth, and me a most marvelous welcome. All the world loves flowers and the bond of friendship through Ikebana was most touching.

It was a joy and privilege to serve on the staff of Ambassador Clare Booth Luce. When Signora Luce heard about my Ikebana arrangements she showed interest in what I was doing. We made much of each graduation. Although she never came to the classes, she always sent a message and on one occasion sent a beautiful formally decorated cake for our enjoyment with the message—"This is my Ikebana Arrangement." Mrs. Luce sent me a post-card on which she wrote, "St. Clare, my patron, is making an Ikebana arrangement." St. Clare held three lilies of different lengths in her hand—the three major lines of an Ikebana arrangement.

After the Christmas and New Year Festivities, the Ikebana classes were started again and continued for the required weeks. The ladies were doing so well I felt we might have an Exhibition. I knew they were equal to it and it would be a wonderful achievement for Ikebana and for the Romans interested in flowers, too.

We set up a Committee. Signor Signorino again let us use the ball-banquet room where we had our classes. As it was a private establishment we had to send our invitations. I think we sent out about a thousand, five hundred were in Italian and five hundred in English. I recall we had no trouble with the English invitations but the Italian ones proved more of a problem.

I told all of my students that each would be required to make one arrangement. We had ample space at the Flora Hotel. The long tables were covered with white table cloths and the wall made a background. Of course nothing was competitive as is always the case in an Ikebana Exhibition.

I also invited the wife of the Japanese Ambassador to open the exhibition. But luck was against us. They had just arrived in Rome and as the President of Italy was out of town they could do nothing officially until the Ambassador presented his credentials. However, the Minister and his wife graciously obliged.

What an Exhibition!!! I was simply astounded. My students did not make just one but two or three arrangements each. We had so many exhibits we did not have room for them. We managed by placing them in a zig-zag manner.

The Minister and his wife were to open the Exhibition. Also General Allen was to attend the opening. The Minister came early and General Allen a bit later. The Minister was very nervous and anxious thinking that he would be the only man present, though I kept assuring him that General Allen would attend. Everyone was crowded together in the living room leading to the dining room (ball-banquet hall) and finally it was opened. I've never seen anything like it. One could not see the exhibits for the crowds and if ever there was a success, the "First Ever Ikebana Exhibition" in Rome takes the prize! This exhibition did wonders to in-

terest others in the glorious art of Japan, which was the purpose behind it all. To spread the Art—all over the world—and now with Ikebana International firmly established, it is, truly, **All Over the World.**

After the graduation of my last class in Rome, we were due to return home and General Allen would retire. However, some of my students insisted that I continue to teach and they wanted the Ikenobo or Classical styles. I had had sufficient studies to instruct the elementary styles. I began to instruct Mrs. Jenny Banti, Mrs. Zoe Perkins and Mrs. Mary Bond. They named themselves the "secret three" and they were bound to secrecy since I could not possibly teach anymore. We were to depart in the fall for the United States and everyone leaves Rome in August.

Now the customs of the Japanese Floral Schools are very different than ours. One is required to complete so many hours in each grade from Beginners on to Teachers. Also, one pays for certificates whereas in America they are given free as one has earned them in school. The price is quite high. Under no circumstances should certificates be purchased unless the required hours have been met and the student is truly qualified. The fact that we had three teachers in Rome, pleased me so much. Mrs. Jenny Banti had received her first teacher's certificate from me and I could not be more proud of the extent to which she has spread Ikebana. She is a tremendous credit to me and to the Ohara School. So, the roots of Ikebana were well planted in the Eternal City and it seems that the roots of Ikebana continue to grow and flourish.

After the programs I had presented in the United States in 1952, 1953 and 1954, it was clear to me that Ikebana had added a new dimension to flower arrangement. We wives in the Service whose husbands are on active duty were poor risks as members of local Garden Clubs as we are here today and gone tomorrow. However, we really could practice and study this lovely art of Japan, Ikebana, wherever we were assigned.

Before our assignment to Rome, we thought it appropriate that we who had studied in Japan, should establish our own Ikebana Garden Clubs or an Ikebana Association. Therefore, some of us began to talk about the idea. We finally decided we would meet to see what could be done. At our first meeting it was decided that I should write the most distinguished Masters of the most famous Ikebana Schools of Japan and ask for their support and interest in helping us organize an Ikebana Association. My best friend in Japan, and you might say, "Liaison Friend", was Mr. Yokohama, Director of Mikimoto's. With the problem of language barriers, (I neither wrote nor spoke Japanese) I got a letter off to Mr. Yokohama and the reply was that the Masters were delighted with the idea but did not know what to do. At that time, an article came out in Japan both in the English language papers and in the Japanese language papers stating that a lady, Mrs. Frank A. Allen, Jr. was interested in

setting up an Ikebana Association in the United States and that was about all. When our effort was finished, we hadn't achieved much. Then came our orders to Rome and the hopes for the venture came to an abrupt close. The difficulty of communication was the basic problem.

When we had received orders to return to the United States and General Allen would retire, I said to him, "I do believe I should return to Japan and study Ikebana again." I also said, "I've demonstrated Ikebana and taught it, plus writing two books but I believe I need a refresher course and to study some other schools." Our daughter, son-in-law and their children could stay with Gen. Allen. I felt all would enjoy it and then they could all return home together. I was utterly sincere in this desire to study again. In fact, I know now that we teachers never cease studying Ikebana. It is an Art and there are new forms and new ideas, new styles and a qualified teacher must keep up with these trends.

It was not too long before I arrived in Japan and there to meet me were my dear friends, Mr. R. Yokohama, and his daughter, now Mrs. Hattori. They both greeted me most delightfully and then we drove to the Imperial Hotel where they had engaged a room for me.

Later that morning Etsuko Yokohama arrived to take me to see the smaller hotels. She also took me to International House which had been built through Japan and American cooperation principally backed by Mr. John D. Rockefeller for students of all nations. Later, I joined the organization and it was perfect for my needs. The house was very, very simple but the garden was a dream.

Now that I was really settled, I was anxious to start my classes. I had written Mrs. Fujiwara, my former teacher and greatest friend, to please arrange for me to have a refresher course in the Ohara School. Also, I wanted to take Ikenobo, Saga and Sogetsu. But nothing happened. Ten days passed and I'd not had even one Ohara lesson. A morning or so later, I was at the Imperial Hotel again and mentioned the fact that I had come to Japan to study Ikebana to the florist of the Hotel (my good friend since occupation days) and if I did not get started, why stay? Then he said, "Well, Mrs. Allen, what is the trouble?" I repeated my plans for classes. He said, "I can get you a teacher of the Ikenobo School tomorrow, if you like, and you can count on it."

When I went to the Imperial Hotel Florist the next day, there was a teacher waiting for me. I was introduced to Miss Ueda, one of the Ikenobo's most distinguished teachers. She could speak little English and we bowed and talked with the florist interpreting and then I said, "Let's get busy—please ask Miss Ueda to choose whatever she wants me to use for the class and select the materials." Before one knew it, we were in a taxi on the way to International House. I think she was utterly surprised as it is usual to talk a lot and then later get together.

Finally the schedules were set up. I studied every day but Saturday. The heat was terrific. This all occurred long before air conditioning was popular, and, in fact, in Japan it was very rare. Yes, we had fans but the fans would blow the material and topple the arrangements. But the lessons went on. My other classes were arranged with Mr. H. Tsujii, the son of the Great Saga Master and by the Sogetsu School. My refresher course at the Ohara School was with Mrs. Fujiwara.

One of the women who seemed to take me under her wing at the Sogetsu School, was a Mrs. Helka Smedslund, the wife of the Minister from Finland. Very often she would take me home from class in her car and did so many lovely things, such as dinner at her home, slides of Finland and we truly became closest of friends.

One day we were invited by Mr. Sofu Teshigahara to attend the Highest Teacher's Class, in which Mr. Sofu would explain the new trends in Ikebana. Never have I had such an experience and what was especially nice, Mrs. Smedslund had the interpreter with her, so we could understand everything that was said in Japanese and write up our notes. If ever I have had Heaven on earth where Ikebana is concerned that was the day. Mr. Sofu explained the new trends, the Modern Ikebana, which reflects modern times and how clearly and brilliantly he demonstrated. Mrs. Taguchi was my teacher and she was present for the class and she also assisted in explaining. The arrangements were the new structural ones—simply amazing and wonderful. What is very clear to me now is that to practice and study Ikebana one must be a carpenter, a painter and a designer to carry out the truly imaginative structural arrangements of the huge designs that are now prevalent in Japan and which are being made in many parts of the world by Ikebana students. Let me also add here that each Master has his own explanation of his concept of Ikebana and this is one of the major problems we foreigners face. There is no common denominator for the Modern Ikebana structural styles. Each has its special classifications.

We all know that in the Land of Ikebana, the Masters have many assistants. They carry out his directions to the letter, nailing here and there, sewing while he is guiding his design every minute. The Master is not the Painter, the Carpenter, but the Major Genius of Design. But for us, outside Japan, we must master these other trades along with being the designer as we do the sawing, nailing and painting. It is not easy, but a challenge as is all Ikebana. Truly this is a part of its charm and fascination.

I had promised Mr. and Mrs. Yokohama that I would have dinner with them at their home one evening. The three teachers I knew best at the Sogetsu School were there when I arrived.

After a delicious Japanese dinner, I began to talk about the popularity of Ikebana outside of Japan and showed them the pictures I had brought with me. I explained my efforts to establish an Ikebana Associa-

tion in the United States some years past and why this did not materialize. I explained that such an organization was needed now even more than when I first initiated the idea. Ikebana had been received with much enthusiasm and this was the time to start such an organization. A few days later, I had a call from Mrs. Taguchi inviting me to give a talk on my idea and ideals for an Ikebana Association. I felt I had to decline because time was running short. Nevertheless, Mrs. Taguchi persisted and I finally agreed to do so. I might have known that I would relent as no one can refuse a charming and genteel Japanese lady.

As I was preparing my talk I realized that I should have something more concrete to present. I decided to ask Mr. Yokohama to prepare a "model constitution" for me to present following the talk. He consented and I felt much better as we would also have a definite plan to study and consider.

Mrs. Taguchi phoned to say that everything was all set for the 17th of August. A Mrs. George Kramer (whom I did not know at the time) would pick me up in her car and take me to the Washington Heights Club (no longer in existence but was used for the setting of the Olympics). Mrs. Kramer picked me up at International House. I found her most delightful, full of enthusiasm and most gracious to me. We arrived at the Washington Heights Club. Mrs. Taguchi was there and to my delight and surprise, Mrs. Yokohama, Etsuko, and Madam Harada whom I had known so well in Rome, Italy. I enjoyed seeing on display the lovely arrangements that Mrs. Taguchi's class had made.

We moved to another room where the chairs were lined up and a table prepared for Mrs. Kramer and me. We sat down and I was introduced. I spoke of the state of Georgia and Ikebana and its popular reception there, of the classes held in Washington, D.C., and finally the formation of an International organization for Ikebana.

I asked Mrs. Kramer to read aloud the proposed Constitution and By-Laws which Mr. Yokohama had prepared. While she was reading and explaining the model for a Constitution I had a chance to observe the audience more closely. I could see definitely that there was much interest. Something inspired me. That is 'Magic' I guess, and I said to myself, "I'd better strike now or forever hold my peace." Hence, I got up once more and suggested that if some of the ladies would be truly interested and cared to give us their names and phone numbers we would try to get the organization going. This was a 'hit in the dark' but a great many did sign up. We planned a meeting within a week.

So, it was "Magic" or "Miracle", for on that day Ikebana International was founded. We had no name of course but the idea had caught on and we 'pioneers' would have to make it a reality and organize the Association. Some of the ladies that signed did not attend the meeting the next week but Fay Kramer had talked to others, so we had a very good attendance.

I had engaged the Conference Room at International House for the meeting. Before the women arrived I had outlined on the blackboard the officers I felt we would need. But before I began, and having had much experience with womens' organizations I made up my mind I would not waste time with them saying, "No, I could not fill that position," or, "I'm afraid this would be too much" and such nonsense. Since I wanted affirmative replies I let them know at the beginning a "Yes" was expected and that was what we got. I asked Mrs. Helka Smedslund first, to be our First Vice President because she had said to me one day, as we were leaving the Sogetsu School, when I mentioned such an organization, "Don't leave me out. Don't leave me out." When I asked her to take a specific position she accepted saying she would do all she could to help us. I had made up my mind in advance that Mrs. George Kramer would be the President. Immediately I asked her to take this position and then wrote the names on the blackboard. Everyone had accepted. However, I did not want any person left out so I asked if there was anybody present that didn't have an office. One of the women said, in a very soft voice from the back of the room, that she did not have a position. We made one for her immediately and she was put on our Board of Directors. All had jobs and not one had escaped.

Then I said, "What do we do for money?" Utter silence. No reply, and then Betty Keegan arose and said, "I think this organization is going to go and I'll subscribe \$5.00." All of the others did the same and we had our first money. We handed it over to our new Treasurer—Joyce Pett.

We discussed the name of the organization. Mrs. Kramer suggested IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL. This suggestion was accepted with enthusiasm. Now we were in business!!

The organization, IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL was founded August 17, 1956, at the former Washington Heights Club, Tokyo, Japan. On that day we became an active organization.

The newspapers gave us excellent coverage, which helped a great deal. I was invited to give talks to various groups in Tokyo regarding the organization but just had to decline because of the limited time I had before I returned to the United States.

The first problem was to get more members. Our first Board Meeting was held at International House. We decided to have a Garden Party and invite friends we thought would be interested. Invitations and notices were sent out and we had about 200 guests. Of course, the most important backing we needed was that of the Ikebana Masters (Japan's Most Famous) to help promote the organization. With the very short notice of our Garden Party most of the Masters themselves had to decline the invitation but they sent their special teachers to represent them. From the schools:

Ohara School: 1. Mrs. Hoga Fujiwara
2. Miss Taira
3. Mr. Kudo

Sogetsu School: 1. Mr. Taguchi
2. Mrs. Ono
3. Miss Ogawa

Ikenobo School: 1. Miss Ueda (my teacher)

Saga School: 1. Mr. Hakashu Tsujii (son of the Great Master)

We also invited other distinguished Japanese such as the Haradas.

Upon the arrival of our guests at the Garden Party, we had ready a copy of my speech, plus a mimeographed membership form to present to each one. Many, many people joined, thus we had a little more money to add to our very small Treasury.

All of the teachers that were present at the Garden Party evidently approved of the idea of an Ikebana Association and, as a result of their reports to their Headmasters, Ikebana International was formally approved by Mr. Houn Ohara, Mr. Sofu Teshigahara, Mr. Senei Ikenobo and Mr. Kushu Tsujii. It was a great step for our organization!

That afternoon I received a most cherished possession at the close of the Garden Party. I was presented a Scroll, making me a "Life Member of Ikebana International." It was signed by our President, Mrs. Kramer, and Members of our Board plus the Ikebana Masters who backed me. It read:

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL

hereby accords

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

to

ELLEN G. ALLEN

In recognition of her successful effort in founding this Ikebana International Association of Japanese Flower Arranging:

Tokyo, Japan
September 8, 1956

SIGNATURES

President: Fay Kramer

Vice President: Melka Smedslund

Secretary: Joyce Pett

Board of Directors

Betty Keegan
Eleanor Koppisch
Barbara McTigue
E. D. Longbotham
Winfred Wood
Virginia R. Davis

Seikoh Ogawa
Setel Taguchi
Mrs. R. E. Beasley
Mrs. Fujiwara
Clara Belle Cather
Miyo Mishimuru

Advisors

Reichichi Yokohama
Sofu Teshigahara

Senei Ikenobo
Kushu Tsujii

Houn Ohara

Before I left Japan, I was given about one hundred Ikebana International membership cards in order to have them available whenever I met a prospective member. I got quite a few new members as we sailed across the Pacific.

We arrived in Seattle, Washington and I then took the train across the United States. I was to stay with my daughter, Laura, in Washington, D.C. until my husband returned. She met me in Silver Spring Station and nearly died when she saw all of the boxes I had besides my luggage. Fortunately, there was just enough room in her station wagon and we motored to her home. Shortly thereafter, I did some Ikebana arrangements for her and she was entranced and became one of my real fans!

Soon after arriving home, Mrs. Fredrica Galloway invited me to lunch with other close friends. Before we had time to eat, I had Fredrica's signature for membership in Ikebana International. She was to be Member No. 1 in the new Chapter.

On October 9, 1956, Mrs. A. F. Striker invited me to tea with some of our Garden Club friends and naturally, she was most interested in the Ikebana Association. During the lovely tea, I explained what had been accomplished and that if any wanted to join, I had the membership cards with me. Fifteen joined and it was decided that we form a Chapter! I appointed all the officers for the required positions. Mrs. Striker was appointed President of the First Ikebana International Chapter outside of Japan.

We were organized so quickly that our Headquarters had hardly any policies set up. But between our Chapter and our Headquarters regulations and policies were worked out. We are now Ikebana International Chapter No. 1, Washington, D.C. Inc.

After Ikebana International Chapter No. 1 was founded, I contacted Mrs. Banti and suggested that she form Chapter No. 2 of Ikebana International in Rome, Italy. This Chapter was later dissolved, however, and Mrs. Banti became the head of the Ohara School of Ikebana and works now with Mr. Ohara.

Gradually the Chapters were popping up all over. I was in constant correspondence and we now had 'guide line' policies prepared by Headquarters. The problem I faced was 'what was my official position?' With my many letters going all over the United States I asked our Headquarters to please give me a title. I had left Mrs. Kramer as our International President and what was I? Headquarters wrote me and gave me a choice of three titles including Founder. I selected that title. Now I have added "International Founder" and this seems to be more appropriate.

The early "Sprouts" that developed very promptly were the following:

Ikebana International, Washington, D.C. Chapter #1
Ikebana International, Rome, Italy Chapter #2 (later dissolved)
Ikebana International, St. Louis, Mo. Chapter #3
Ikebana International, Los Angeles, California Chapter #4
Ikebana International, Nashville, Tenn. Chapter #5
Ikebana International, London, England Chapter #6
Ikebana International, New York, Chapter #7
Ikebana International, Chinook, Mont. Chapter #8

We now have 189 Chapters, Potential Chapters and Registered Study Groups (Oct. 1975) and more in the making with a membership of over 10,000, all over the world. As I say the sun never sets on an Ikebana International Chapter. The following regions are represented: North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, New Guinea, New Zealand and South America! All this has been accomplished within sixteen years since Ikebana International was organized. Ikebana is a specialized form of the art of flower arranging. I can truly say that those who belong are enthusiastic and truly dedicated to the Art of Ikebana and to our organization, Ikebana International.

PRESIDENTS OF IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL

Fay Kramer
Carola Meller
Ruth Scott
Hisako Komine
Gail Feerer
Martha Neese

Etsuko Hattori
Norma Tennekoon
Margaret Hague
A. Lucille Hurley
Grace Chase
Mary Ford

Mona M. Lutz

PAST PRESIDENTS OF CHAPTER #1

1. Mrs. Arthur F. Striker	1956-1958
2. Mrs. Arthur J. de la Mare	1958-1959
3. Mrs. Ralph S. McDowell	1959-1960
4. Mrs. Malcolm S. Jones	1960-1962
5. Mrs. Roy G. DeVecchio	1962-1964
6. Mrs. Percy J. Veach	1964-1966
7. Mrs. Paul E. Todd	1966-1968
8. Mrs. William V. Bour, Jr.	1968-1969
9. Mrs. Lawson M. McKenzie	1969-1971
10. Mrs. Paul Godbey	1971-1973
11. Mrs. Cecil Uyehara	1973-1975
12. Mrs. Robert M. Scott	1975-



MRS. ARTHUR F. STRIKER (Medrith)
1956—1958

1956

October 8: Washington, D.C. Chapter #1 organized at Tea at home. Fifteen women joined. \$5.00 dues. First Officers: Medrith Striker, President; Betty de la Mare, V.P.; Mildred Miller, Treasurer; Pearl Jensen, Recording Sec.; Emilie Maney, Corres. Sec.

1957

April 30: Gala Membership Tea—Army Navy Country Club. Attendance from New York, New Jersey, Baltimore and Georgia. First Newsletter—Mrs. Howard S. Maney, Editor

June: Madam Josiu Oshikawa, Shofu Ryu, taught classes.

September: First Birthday Luncheon. Mrs. Allen presented new Charter. Application for membership in National Capital Garden Club League.

Nov. 1 & 2: First Ikebana Exhibition—Mesdames Maney and Lang, Co-chairmen. Chapter has 210 members. First Ikebana International magazine published in Tokyo. 340 members in world.

1958

March 15: First Chapter Directory

May 20: Mrs. Smedslund, International 1st V.P., speaker.

August 5: Festival of Flowers, Headmaster Houn Ohara gave two demonstrations. Mrs. Seiko Ogawa demonstrated Freer Art Gallery and taught classes.

August 13: Miss Seiko Ogawa, Sogetsu demonstration and classes.

September: Second Birthday Party, Walter Reed Officer's Club. Constitution and By-Laws adopted. 362 members.



Washington, D.C. Chapter No. 1—First Anniversary, September 1957. From left: Mrs. Arthur F. Striker, Madame Koichiro Asakai, wife of the Japanese Ambassador to the United States; Mrs. Frank A. Allen, Jr.



First Annual Ikebana International Exhibit in the Washington, D.C. area, in November 1957. Madame Koichiro Asakai cutting the ribbon.



MRS. ARTHUR J. de la MARE (Betty)
1958—1959

1958

November 8-9: Autumn Exhibition, Chevy Chase Women's Club. Mrs. Lang, Chairman. 34 members made 44 arrangements.

1959

March 17: Stella Coe, London, Program at Cosmos Club.
April 15- First Study Tour to Japan. Mesdames Allen and Striker
May 17 leaders.
April 20: Washington D.C. Chapter 1 incorporated in Washington, D.C., District of Columbia.
April 21: Madame Josui Oshikawa, Shofu ryu program.
April: Participation in National Capital League Garden Club Show. Mrs. Striker and Mrs. Daniel exhibited a Japanese Garden.
September 30: Third Birthday Party, Kenwood Country Club. 40 Chapters and 400 members in world. Six Area Workshops begun: Falls Church, Arlington, Alexandria, Chevy Chase, Georgetown and Cleveland Park. Thirteen teachers cooperated.



MRS. RALPH S. McDOWELL (Berma)
1959—1960

1960

Headmaster Mr. Koshu Tsjuui, Saga School, Lecture and Demonstration.
 Third Autumn Exhibition, Mrs. Lang, Chairman, Chevy Chase Women's Club.
 Special Event—Visit Japanese House and Garden and Museum in Philadelphia.
 Miss Seiko Hara, "Flowers Round the Clock," Program.
 Participation in National Capital League Garden Club Show Garden and arrangements.
 Ten Area Workshops flourishing.



MRS. MALCOLM S. JONES (Mary)
1960—1962

1960

- April:* Fourth Ikebana Flower Show.
- July:* Mr. Setsuo Kirinoc, sumi painter, taught classes.
- September:* Fourth Birthday Tea, Washington Arts Club.
- September:* Festive Tea—Orangery Dumbarton Oaks, honoring Mrs. Koba Tiara's 50th Anniversary as Ohara teacher.
- October:* Mrs. and Mrs. Norman Sparnon, Australia, Lecture and Demonstration.
- October:* Luncheon for Headmaster Meikof Kasuya, Ichiyo School.
- October:* Their Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince and Princesses of Japan visit America.
- Cooperating with Japan-America Society, Chapter #1 decorates tables on SS Mt. Vernon for luncheon and trip to Mt. Vernon. Arrangements at Department of State and National Housing Center.

1961

- Fifth Birthday Tea, Washington Arts Club.
- Mr. Tohuna Tono, Master Landscape Gardener lecture at Smithsonian Institution.
- Dues raised to \$7.50.
- Invited to make arrangements by Federal Savings and Loan Company for opening of Arlington Branch office. Eleven arrangements, Mrs. Striker, Chairman.
- Tour to Japan—Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Striker, leaders.

1962

- March:* National Capital Garden Club League Flower Show featured Ikebana International Day.
- April:* Fifth Ikebana Show, First at National Housing Center.
- April:* First "U.S. Get-Together" in Washington, D.C. All U.S. Chapters and members at large invited. Headmaster Sofu Teshigahara, Sogetsu School, lectures, demonstration and workshops. Mrs. Scott, International President, guest.
- Teachers Directory planned. Mrs. Striker, Chairman.
- July:* Mrs. Hoga Fujiwara, Head teacher, Ohara School, gave series of classes.
- Tour to Japan—Mrs. Allen, leader.



MRS. ROY G. DeVECCHIO (Lois)
1962—1964

1962

- September 18:* Sixth Anniversary Tea, Department of State Reception Room.
- Spring:* Second Cherry Blossom Festival, National Housing Center.

1963

- Spring:* Participation in National Capital Flower Outdoor Show.
- North American Regional Conference, Sacramento, Calif.
- October 29:* Tea at Embassy of Japan, Madam Takeuchi hostess.
- December:* Participation in Christmas Greens Show.

1964

- March:* U.S. debut, "Little Singers of Tokyo".
- May:* North American Regional Conference (3rd), New York.
- Visit by Mrs. Hisako Komine, International President.



MRS. PERCY J. VEACH (Anne)
1964—1966

1964

Initiated the Dogwood Project, a reciprocal gift of 150 dogwood trees for the Tidal Basin cherry trees. All U.S. chapters involved.

1965

- Spring:* First World Ikebana International Convention—Tokyo. Tour to Japan—Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Striker, leaders.
- February:* First Ikebana Teachers Demonstration, Smithsonian Institution.
- September:* Cooperated with Baltimore Study Group in staging a Flower Show in Hochschild-Kohn Department Store.

1966

Fourth North American Regional Conference—Atlanta, Georgia. Masters Kasuya and Tsujii demonstrated. Headmaster Meikof Kasuya, Ichiyo School, Demonstration at Smithsonian Institution.



MRS. PAUL E. TODD (Wayne)
1966—1968

1966

- September 15:* Tenth Birthday Tea, Diplomatic Rooms, Dept. of State. 158 Ohara teachers from Japan are guests.

1967

- May:* Spring Cherry Blossom Festival—Mrs. Louise Geer, Chairman, assisted by Mrs. Pearson and Mrs. Laidlein.
- July 2:* Farewell Tea for Madame Takeuchi.
- June 30:* Welcomed Madame Shimoda.
- June:* Mrs. Neese, International President, visits.
- September 20:* Revision of Constitution and By-Laws, Mrs. Paul Barton, Chairman.
- October 10:* Champagne Brunch—Mrs. Allen presented gold president's pin to be passed to succeeding presidents.
- October 10:* Wafu Teshigahara demonstrated at Chevy Chase Workshop. Mrs. Gerald Braley, Chairman.
- November 17:* First Scholarship awarded to Alice May Lively, art student at Georgetown Visitation Convent (\$100.00) and \$100.00 for tickets to performing arts for foreign students at International House.

1968

- April 4:* Washington, D.C. Chapter 1, Embassy of Japan and Japan-America Society celebrated Centennial of Meiji Restoration with Flower and Poster Show at National Arboretum.
- April:* Mrs. Neese, International President, visits.
- May 2-5:* Fifth North American Regional Conference, Boston. Fourteen members attend.
- Assisted in founding chapters in Baltimore, Md. and Richmond, Va.
- May:* Newly revised Constitution and By-Laws adopted. All members living more than 50 miles from Washington, D.C. become Members-at-Large.



MRS. WILLIAM V. BOUR, JR. (Jane)
1968—1969

1968

- July:* Stone lantern, red bridge and rocks presented to National Arboretum—Presented by Mrs. Paul Todd, Past President.
- September 17:* Twelfth Founder's Day Luncheon, Miss Anita Moller, Dept. of State Interior Decorator program.
- November:* Reston House Tour and Tea. Mrs. Godbey, Chairman. Tea for Mrs. Hattori, International President.
- December:* Christmas Greens Show, Mrs. Goodspeed, Chairman.

1969

- January:* Jelleff Fashion Show and second Scholarship Award at January Luncheon. Recipient: Harriet Hillenmeyer, Lexington, Ky.
- April:* Cherry Blossom Festival, National Housing Center and Explorer's Hall, National Geographic Society. Mrs. Craven and Wagoner, Chairmen. Mr. Houn Ohara participated.
- April:* Tour and Tea "Evermay", Dumbarton Oaks and garden of Miss Hollerith. Mrs. Iliff, Chairman.
- May:* Installation Luncheon, Congressional Club. Printed booklet Constitution and By-Laws distributed.
- May 13:* Mrs. Kosui Fujikado, General Workshop "Ikebana and Haiku".
- Courtesy Committee formed to welcome members at meetings.
- Design and Printing of Bookplate for Chapter Library and card file made, Mrs. William Lee.
- Standing Rules listed, Mrs. Roy DeVecchio, Chairman.



MRS. LAWSON M. McKENZIE (Louise)
1969—1971

1969

- August:* Sayonara Banquet for Counselor and Mrs. Yamanaka.
- September:* Founder's Day Luncheon, Moon Viewing celebration.
- October:* Master Fujiwara, Ikenobo School Demonstration.
- December:* Tour to London Symposium—Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Striker, leaders.
- Participated in Christmas Greens Show.

1970

- February 4:* "Art of Ikebana" Smithsonian Institution. Luncheon for visiting Lady de la Mare, former Chapter Pres.
- April:* Cherry Blossom Festival, National Housing Center. Tea at Embassy of Japan, Mrs. Shimoda hostess.
- June:* New installation ceremony. Tanabata Festival Program.
- August 4:* Sayonara Tea for Mrs. Shimoda at Embassy of South Africa.
- September 8:* Founder's Day Luncheon—Washington Golf and Country Club.
- September 17:* Second World Ikebana International Convention, Tokyo. 22 members attended. Aluminum plaques for the Dogwood trees designed by Mrs. Braley and Kanode presented in Tokyo.
- Tour to Japan—Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Striker, leaders.
- September:* Saga Teachers Demonstration and Workshop. Mrs. Braley, Chairman.
- November:* Master Yoshida, Ikenobo School, Lecture and demonstration.
- December:* Christmas Greens Show, National Arboretum, Mrs. Striker and Kurata, Chairmen.

1971

- February 4:* White House Tea, Mrs. Nixon hostess. 334 members and Chapter guests present.
- March 30:* Cherry Blossom Festival, National Housing Center, Mrs. Miyakawa, Taylor and Goodspeed, Chairmen.
- May:* Headmasters, Mr. and Mrs. Mori, Enshu and Kofu Schools. Demonstration and Workshop. Mrs. Goodspeed, Chairman.
- June:* Scholarship awarded to Miss Miriam MacPherson.
- Library of Congress makes new catalog listing of Ikebana.



MRS. PAUL GODBEY (Helen)
1971—1973

1971

- October:* Death of Mary Jones, 4th President of Chapter.
First paid ads in Newsletter, suggested by Mrs. Allen.
- November 8-13:* Malta Ikebana International Symposium Tour led by Mrs. Allen and Striker.
- November 22:* Mrs. Kobai Narusi, Chico School, Demonstration and Workshop.

1972

- January:* Sustaining Membership Drive begun. Scholarship Fund given to this effort this year.
- February 7:* Death of Berma McDowell, past President of Chapter.
- April 4:* Last Cherry Blossom Festival at National Housing Center.
- April 6:* "The Living Arts of Japan", John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts under patronage of His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan and Mrs. Ushiba. Mrs. McKenzie, chairman.
- April 18:* Mrs. Masayuki Nagura, San Francisco, Ikenobo Demonstration and workshop.
- April 24:* Luncheon honoring Lady de la Mare visiting from Bangkok.
- April 25:* Bus tour to Dunvegan home of Mr. and Mrs. Colin MacLeod, Jr. to tea and view race horses Ikebana and Ikenobo.
- May 25:* Headmaster Hakushi Tsujii, Mrs. Tsujii and Miss Soga, Saga School lecture and workshop.
- June 9:* Death of beloved Founder, Ellen Gordon Allen.
- September 19:* 16th Birthday and Founders Luncheon. "The Pearl of Great Price" program by Kathryn Grant.

1973

- June 12:* Installation Luncheon.
Revised Constitution and By-laws distributed.
Chapter Committee formed to receive ideas for an appropriate memorial to Mrs. Allen.



MRS. CECIL H. UYEHARA (Allie Marie)
1973—1975

1973

- September:* Founders Day Luncheon "Green Grasses of Autumn", Army-Navy Club.
- November:* Masters Hakushu and Yamaguchi, Saga School, demonstrated.

1974

- April:* Mrs. Kosui Fujikado celebrated her 50th Anniversary as an Ikebana teacher.
- May:* Spring Flower Festival, U.S. Botanic Gardens. Mrs. Buchanan, Chairman.
- May:* Professor Takuma, Ikenobo School, Special Event.
- May:* Rita Gasperetti, art student, receives Ellen G. Allen Scholarship Award.
- June:* Past II Pres. Mrs. Feerer installs officers and gives demonstration.
- Sept.:* Founder's Luncheon—"Autumn Morimono to Enjoy"
- Nov.:* Stella Coe, author and founder of London Chapter, workshop program "Ikebana for Varying Moods"
- Dec.:* Board of Chapter No. 1 voted to be hosts to 7th North American Regional Conference to be held May 1976.

1975

- April:* Spring Flower Festival, U.S. Botanic Gardens, "Ikebana from Ancient to Abstract", Mrs. Hale Taylor, Chairman.
- May:* Kathleen Jennings Gibbons, recipient of Ellen G. Allen Scholarship Award.
- May:* Medrith Striker made an Honorary Life Member of Chapter No. 1 and presented a certificate of appreciation.
- June:* Installation Luncheon, Hiroko Sogi presents Saga School styles.



MRS. ROBERT M. SCOTT (Marion)
1975—

All it took was initiative and Medrith Striker had that! When the Baltimore chapter of Ikebana International felt they were unable to undertake a North American Regional Conference, Medrith felt that it was our responsibility to keep up the spirit and sponsor the conference here in Washington. As a result, the North American Regional Conference got under way in earnest in the fall of 1975. Medrith stayed on as Honorary Chairman. Mrs. Cecil Uyehara is Chairman, and Mrs. Hale Taylor consented to be Co-chairman, so we were really underway. Suddenly, everyone was enthusiastic and what had seemed a mirage became a definite plan. Mrs. John Pickett agreed to be Chairman of our annual Spring Flower Festival at the Botanic Garden, and I began to sleep nights. Mrs. L. Dow Adams and Mrs. Fred Edwards are Co-chairmen, and with the help of a talented and enthusiastic crew, they have put together a stunning show. Since Mr. Ohara, Headmaster of the Ohara School, and Mrs. Riei Ikeda, President of the Koryu Shotokai, are to be the guest demonstrators at our conference and have agreed to stage exhibits at our Festival in the Botanic Garden Conservatory, the show has been oriented toward their particular needs. In the West Wing, guest arrangers from among our out-of-town conferees are featured, while in the East Wing Washington Area Chapter teachers are exhibiting. All the attending International Past Presidents and Mrs. Walter Lutz and I were invited to arrange in tokonomos in the Great Hall. Mrs. Striker will present a special tribute to our founder, Mrs. Frank A. Allen, Jr. in the Great Hall also. We expect Madame Togo, wife of His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan, to honor us by cutting the opening ribbon.

We are all looking forward to the visit of our International President, Mrs. Lutz, past International Presidents, and our guests and delegates from all over this region and abroad. It is our hope that our visitors will find as much pleasure in these events as we have had in producing them. It may seem trite, but I feel that the trials and anguish of this year have produced a stronger and more cohesive chapter than before, with a greater appreciation of the many talented persons our organization contains. I am sure we are all looking forward to many more regional conferences and international conventions in the years to come as Ikebana International continues to grow and expand.

IDEAS ON ESTABLISHING AN INTERNATIONAL IKEBANA ASSOCIATION

(Presented by Ellen Gordon Allen before a group of women at the Washington Heights Club, Tokyo, Japan, on August 17, 1956; the day Ikebana International was founded.)

I feel so pleased to have an opportunity to discuss the idea of establishing an International Ikebana Association. Frankly, it is no new idea of mine, as I have had it ever since I left Japan and returned to the United States in 1952, and since living in Rome my feeling in regard to such an Association is even stronger.

Actually this idea of mine developed shortly after I came home, because suddenly my close and intimate contact with my teachers, with some of the Masters and with my classmates, ceased abruptly! It was just as if you had turned off an electric light and darkness descended. Or better still to make the point a little more attractive it was as if a heavy black curtain had suddenly descended, cutting off completely from my sight, the wonderful stage of Ikebana—at which I had gazed constantly for over two years.

And you, who will leave here one of these days, will understand when you depart exactly what I mean—if you really love this beautiful art!

About 1953, we moved from Georgia to Washington, D.C. One day a few other ardent enthusiasts of Ikebana met with me for the purpose at least of organizing a "skeleton organization"; we even looked into the legal aspects, and also how we would proceed in forming such an organization. Then about this time I wrote to Mr. Yokohama, a friend of mine here, whom I always call the "Ambassador of Good Will," and asked him to sound out the Masters regarding this idea. In fact, I have a copy of an article on the subject which appeared in some Japanese newspapers concerning the matter. This is concrete evidence that the idea was planted.

But as often occurs in the life of a service wife, the official obligations of my husband's position prevented me from going further with the establishment of the association.

However, my idea never changed, and after all the "seed" was planted.

Since my return to Japan this time to study further Ikebana, I can see really the "tiny sprouts" of the idea begin to appear in all directions, and all to whom I have talked have been highly enthusiastic, particularly the Masters, and they, of course, would be the logical leaders in such a movement!

So the idea is growing. Now, however, is the time for cultivation of these "tiny sprouts" and this means hard work, so let's face it. Every gardener knows that in raising plants and flowers, he has to work hard, but when he finally sees the results of his labors, a beautiful full-grown plant, the effort involved is quickly forgotten! And so it would be, I am sure, with our Association.

This is the era of Associations! In America, we all know there is an endless number. Here in Japan, from what I read and see, the Japanese, too, have a larger number also, of all types, such as Foreign Relations Association, Cultural Associations of many types and others. In other words, we are in line with present day trends, therefore, the establishment of such an Association is in order.

To analyze the meaning of Associations in general—their objectives are:

- a. To ally oneself with one another through a common interest, for our mutual benefit and enjoyment.
- b. To support a worthwhile cause.

I will discuss a few general ideas and a few concrete ones that seem practical to me. But there is room for many more ideas and from many other people—not just from me. Nevertheless, we have to have a beginning to visualize the outline of some plan. And, of course, time will not permit me to go into too much detail. I will touch lightly on these points. Specialists in organizations can handle such matters more efficiently.

Organization:

First: Such an Association must have a name! It may be called: The International Ikebana Association or Ikebana International, etc.

Second: The Management: It would be under a Board or Executive Committee, made up from the Masters, their Associates and an International group of students, who would work together. (How appointed or elected, would again be up to those who develop the organization).

Third: Membership in the Association: This would be made up of students of Ikebana, or others who are interested in the Association. Also Chapters would be formed in the U.S. and outside Japan, to work with the Executive Committee—at the Headquarters here in Japan.

Fourth: We would have to develop a Constitution: This would embody the broad aspects of the Association, such as:

- a. To stimulate and cultivate the continuous study and spread of the art.
- b. To spread the art and by it to develop a better understanding of the Japanese people, and likewise a better understanding among all of us of other nations—one with another.
- c. To strengthen the friendships among teachers, Masters and students, thereby keeping the "Ikebana family" together.

d. Above all through the Ikebana Association, to stimulate international friendships, and the spread of good-will through out the world! (These are generalities, of course, but simply a pattern.)

Fifth: The Association of necessity would be non-profit to individuals; all monies would be used for the expenses, etc. of such an Association, not for individual benefits.

Sixth: The employment of an English-speaking Japanese Executive Secretary who would be employed to run the mechanics of the Association, and would be under the direction of the Board or Executive Committee (salary paid by the Association).

Seventh: Annual payment of dues by members; also if plans develop we could soon contribute a "founder's fund" whereby some money would be available to help start the organization. Also benefits could be held for the purposes—such as Flower Arrangement Exhibits with a small fee!

Eighth: It would be of enormous assistance if such an Association would be sponsored by the Cultural Department of the Japanese Government; this would encourage the Masters to go ahead with the idea—and would be of great assistance to our efforts.

Ninth: In the end, such an Association might be affiliated with the Federated and Garden Clubs of America—as a special branch—Then all who love flowers and flower arrangements would be working as one.

Benefits:

- a. The benefits that would accrue to us would be that we would receive a semi-annual or quarterly publication on Ikebana. We could by this means not only keep in touch with the Masters, teachers and our associates, but also keep abreast of the trends in the art; we could include such personal items—as that Mrs. So and So is located here or there—that Master So and So is lecturing here or there. This, too, would keep the Ikebana family together, and intact.
- b. We would bend every effort to have the Masters come once a year (by rotation), to put on Exhibitions—and to teach, and this would be our greatest benefit, or course.
- c. And lastly, after we become an organization and not a "tiny sprout" we may be able to plan an Ikebana Convention here in Japan—maybe every five years. And this idea is within the realm of possibilities as in 1938 (if my memory is correct on this date), the Japanese Government invited the members of the Garden Clubs of America to visit Japan. They came on a Japanese liner, everything was planned for them, and I have heard from those who came, it was one of the most successful and delightful experiences they ever had! And wouldn't that be fun—and we could once again study here too. Anyhow, I hope to live long enough to attend the first Convention!

The reason I am so enthusiastic about Ikebana is that I think it is good for us. It is wonderful to have a few minutes respite with your flowers, away from the turmoil of everyday life—Ikebana has great therapeutic powers, for I say in my book—"It is an antidote to worry"—and I should certainly know as when I was studying the art, here in Japan, my husband was fighting with the First Cavalry Division in Korea!

But to return to the Association—and these ideas: ideas must become concrete to be worthwhile. In themselves they are useless except for conversation. IT IS THE IMPLEMENTING OF THEM THAT COUNTS! But with practical leadership and enthusiastic efforts, ideas usually become realities.

I see no reason why Ikebana cannot become a veritable garland of flowers surrounding the world with beauty and binding all of us together in real and lasting friendship—a magnificent contribution from Japan to the world at large!

From II Newsletter May-June 1959 after Ellen Allen's first visit to Japan after founding Ikebana International.

Volumes would be needed to recount the activities of Ellen Gordon Allen in her dual role of Ikebana Study Group tour leader and returning founder of Ikebana International. Few founders during their lifetimes are privileged to see their concepts emerge into living, healthy, growing actualities. In September 1956, Mrs. Allen left the beginnings of II with twenty founding members. Thirty-two months later, a membership of 2000 strong on five continents with 21 chapters, symbolically rolled out the red carpet to do her honor. On behalf of the membership, it is my sincere pleasure to thank all those who helped make our Founder's visit a true reflection of the esteem which Ikebana International has attained at home in Japan and abroad.

Fay Kramer—first International President

NOTES ON FOUNDING OF CHAPTER NO. 1

Medrith Striker

Both Bertie Mary Tarpley and I worked with Mrs. Allen from May 1st until September 1954 when she left for Rome. We helped her revise the book "Japanese Flower Arrangement in a Nutshell—a Primer". Bertie Mary typed and I helped set up the classical lessons in the revised edition. All that summer we heard of the dream of an international organization of ikebana. It was no surprise to me when Mrs. Allen returned from Rome via Japan October 2nd, 1956 announcing that Ikebana International had been organized in Tokyo August 17, 1956.

On Wednesday evening, October 3rd, Ellen called me, "Mushi, mushi, where have you been all day? I've been trying to get you. I have so much to tell you. When can you come over?" I replied, "Well mushi mushi to you. I don't have a car tomorrow, will come to see you on Friday. I've been at the League Country Fair Meeting. It opens next Wednesday, October 10 at Woodies Auditorium at Seven Corners." Incidentally that Fair was a benefit that started the Garden Center Fund. Then Ellen said, "I want you to know that Ikebana International was born in Tokyo August 17th." "Good, count me as a member." "O.K., you are member number two in this area. Freddie Galloway is number one and Mrs. Shimanouchi is the third."

On Friday, October 5th I went to see her. We talked and talked and I became member number two. As she was leaving for Augusta, Georgia the following week for General Allen's retirement ceremony, I arranged to have a small tea for her at my home on Monday, October 8th.

It was a spur of the moment affair. The following friends and students were there: Medrith Striker, Bertie Mary Tarpley, Mildred Miller, Agnes Higgins, Nan Vacca, Pearl Jensen, Emily Maney, Evelyn Georgens, Grace Harbo, Gustel Greger, Evelyn Lang, Florence Boteler, Doris Ecton, Beth McKinney, Nancy Hutchings, Frances Patteson-Knight, Marg St. Clair and Margaret Bailey. The first thirteen paid the dues of \$5.00 and our Chapter was started, October 8, 1956. I added Mrs. Anne Creighton, my teacher of Chattanooga, as a member the same day. With Mrs. Galloway and Mrs. Shimanouchi we had fifteen local members.

Mrs. Allen appointed the following officers:

President—Medrith Striker

Treasurer—Mildred Miller

Recording Secretary—Pearl Jensen volunteered

Corresponding Secretary—Emily Maney volunteered.

ONE OF MY MEMORIES OF ELLEN GORDON ALLEN

This lovely Memorial Magazine to Ellen Gordon Allen could be an encyclopaedia of memories if each of us wrote one memory. I have so many, it's hard to pick just one. My files are full of "love notes", even a "love letter" to my husband.

The memory that is always foremost, is that Ellen always had time for her strong faith in the Almighty, always had time for her friends and family and always had time for her dear Ikebana International. Her Mother and Father and School instilled in her that "something worth doing was worth doing well." This she believed with all her heart. This was shown in her style of living, in her school work and this is what she wanted most for I.I.

She wanted her beloved Ikebana International to be recognized as an organization aimed toward real world peace—a People to People program through flowers. Never have I seen her so pleased and happy as when the Washington Chapter of I.I. finally succeeded in placing their programs and Cherry Blossom Show in our National Museums, Government buildings and finally the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. How pleased she would be if she knew that this year our Cherry Blossom Show will be held in the Freer Art Gallery, our National Oriental Art Gallery. We think she knows.

Let me tell you one short memory of her "never giving up" attitude. On April 5, 1968, after many months of planning, the annual Cherry Blossom Show, which was to be held at the Smithsonian, had to be changed to the National Arboretum. To quote the then Counselor of the Embassy of Japan, Mr. Yamanaka—"It seemed to me that the National Arboretum was one of the most "appropriate" settings that the exhibit has ever had. The spirit of cooperation manifested in the joint showing of Japanese prize winning posters by the Japan America Society of Washington was also a most noteworthy accent to the proceedings."

The night of the opening and during the buffet dinner given by Minister and Mrs. Sunobe, Martin Luther King was assassinated. Washington was stunned. The show was opened to the public the next day but soon after lunch, Dr. Skinner, Director of the United States Department of Agriculture National Arboretum, told us that part of Washington was on fire and he felt that he should close the Arboretum for our safety. I went to look for Ellen and found her replacing her flowers in her arrangement. When I told her what Dr. Skinner had said, she replied, "I am not leaving until I fix my arrangement."—and she fixed it! She never gave up the idea that the beautiful show would go on.

Her joint letter of thanks to me as President and to Louise McKenzie, as Chairman was as follows:

My dear girls:

Let me extend to everyone my praise and deep admiration for all of you in carrying out, in such a splendid way, our Annual Ikebana International Chapter Exhibition at the National Arboretum.

The many difficulties that were encountered, even months before the Exhibition took place, were enough to dampen everyone's spirit which never once FALTERED! The superb cooperation, the conscientious attention to your obligations and the harmony among all our members and the Committee was truly outstanding!

For me personally another ambition was realized—the generous cooperation of the Embassy of Japan, the Japan-America Society of Washington and in the early planning stages the generously offered assistance of the members of the Washington-Tokyo Club. This is the first time in the annals of our Chapter that we have had such distinguished and delightful support and assistance!

To each and everyone of you, let me express my heart-felt thanks. WHAT A SPIRIT! Keep it that way, for this is the OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTIC of the first Ikebana International Chapter outside of Japan, namely the Washington, D.C. Chapter of Ikebana International!

My deep gratitude and personal affection I extend to all of you.

Devotedly,

Ellen G. Allen
Founder, Ikebana International
Honorary President, Washington, D.C.
Chapter, Ikebana International

She gave us that spirit because she had it—"Aim for the highest and do your best". She always gave her all. She might be with us yet, had she not given so much of herself—but—that was OUR ELLEN and her aim should be our aim always.

Wayne E. Todd
7th President of Chapter #1

EXCERPTS FROM SPEECHES AND WRITINGS

Teachers Round Table Conference

The role that the teachers play in our organization, Ikebana International, has long been a concern of mine, ever since I returned from Japan about a year and a half ago. In my opinion it is the leading role, and our attitude and actions can make or break it; therefore we have a very heavy and grave responsibility and one we should consider very seriously.

It is because of this concern of mine, and Mrs. Dean, our guest of honor's desire, to have a conference with me concerning the problems of teachers of Ikebana, that we are having this little Roundtable Conference today. So instead of meeting just with me, I decided to include our other teachers whose opinions and experience are of great value to all of us.

The way I describe our position in Ikebana International, is that we are like the "Do" in the great Rikka arrangements, which literally and symbolically represents, the "heart". In other words, we teachers are the "heart of Ikebana International, and as we go, so goes Ikebana International. In other words, if the heart is strong, and healthy, the body is usually strong and healthy, and it is our responsibility to keep a "Strong Do"—or heart" for a strong body, which is our organization.

It seems to me that while Ikebana International is in its infancy, and before it gets any bigger and too stretched out, it is wise to have a teachers association, and now is the time to begin. All who are members of Ikebana International, and particularly the teachers, are dedicated to the spread of the art—also our constitution states as one of its objectives:

To stimulate and cultivate the continuous study and spread of the Art. There are three ideal qualities that I consider of the utmost importance that we teachers should possess:

1. that we are a united group,
2. united closely in spirit,
3. harmonious and disciplined.

United: In my opinion we should have a strong sense of loyalty to one another and to the art, a willingness and generous spirit to help one another when necessary, and to avoid at all costs, rivalries and jealousies that may destroy our unity and which in the end will impair Ikebana International.

Harmony: This is not too difficult if we make an effort to give and take; harmony is an attitude of mind which can be cultivated—in spite of difference of opinions—and a harmonious spirit among us, will only add much to our pleasure and the success of the unity of our teachers.

Discipline: Something that few Americans know much about—but where there is a spirit of discipline—usually success is guaranteed. All



First meeting of accredited teachers of Ikebana, Washington, D.C. chapter, February 1958, at Blackistone Florist Shop. Left to right: (Front Row) Toki Miyakawa, Medrith Striker, Mildred Stoltz, Ellen G. Allen, Hortense Dean, Mrs. Shimanochi; (Back Row) Georgia Stewart, Emily Maney, Anita Wagner, Mildred Miller, unknown, Virginia Krossner, Mrs. Ogawa, unknown, Frances Riordan, Mr. Blackistone.

know that in athletics—what the Captain says, goes for the success of the team—and I substitute, “the policies which will eventually be worked out in our teachers group, are the “Captain”—and though we may not always individually agree—for the common good we discipline ourselves to go along with what has been decided upon by the majority.

I have discussed the “ideals”—and now from a practical standpoint:

1. We must above all, keep our standards high in our teaching. The teachers I actually know are certainly doing this, but it must always continue, whether it is for “free” or professionally.

2. For the inexperienced teacher—I feel that anyone of us should be ready and willing to guide her if she wants assistance. Anyone who begins teaching Americans for the first time she has taught, knows it is like “jumping into ice-water” and there will be less “ice-cold criticism” if the teacher has benefited from the experience of others.

3. Since the American mind is what it is, and everything has to be so definite, it might be well to be uniform in our elementary teaching of the fundamentals—at least have a rather “general plan”—However, the success of this depends often on the materials that are available—as the teacher has to coordinate her teaching with what she has, or what her students bring.

Right now, I am paralleling as far as possible, my teaching of my elementary classes along the same lines as Mrs. Miller—because, some of the students Mrs. Miller has, have friends in one of my classes. I do not want them to say, “Well, Mrs. Allen did not teach me this or that” and I feel this plan might be a good one in the end. Right now it seems the better part of wisdom anyway!

Now I have not picked the ideas or ideals out of the air—the model which has long been my inspiration is the attitude of the Japanese teacher herself, in ALL THE SCHOOLS of Ikebana in Japan.

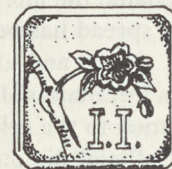
The attitude of the Japanese teacher to the Headmaster, her loyalty to him, together with attitude of accepting instructions, his instructions, brings out their discipline and harmony, and keeps the “unity.”

But for us here in the United States, teachers from many schools of Ikebana, this presents a very different problem. However, it is no problem if we substitute “the art of Ikebana” for the Masters, and all our efforts are directed in the most sensible and best way for the spread of it. Let me add here, and this I can say with absolute truth, since the “family of Ikebana International” is made up of a number of Masters, who are our senior Advisors, that none of them expected to set up a tug-of-war between schools and masters—otherwise they themselves would not have joined Ikebana International. Just use common sense, and that does not mean you do not mention your school or master when you wish, but basically, my reply is always “I am teaching Ikebana” and then add anything else I wish.

Ellen Gordon Allen

History of Ikebana International Pin — May 1962

The pin was originally designed by Princess Kritakara, an accomplished artist and flower arranger, as a gift for friends. Mrs. Ragnar Smedslund (wife of then Finnish Minister) artist, outstanding flower arranger and first member of Ikebana International Headquarters group, felt that the proper cherry blossom design with the initials II would make a fine pin. The noted silver smith and engraver, Mr. Miyata, made the final design. Four nationalities worked on the design and fourteen nationalities approved it.



New Year's Eve—1959—Greeting to Members at Large of Ikebana International

Though many of you do not know me personally, nor do I know all of you, nevertheless, since you are members of our Ikebana family, you are all very dear to me.

As the “Mama-san” of this huge and rapidly growing “Family” let me express my special wish to you for the coming year. May Ikebana, this wonderful gift to the world from the Japanese people, continue to enrich your lives and through this medium spread goodwill. It is upon these ideas that II was founded. With every good wish for the New Year, I remain, with affection,

Ellen Gordon Allen, Founder

August marked Ikebana International's first anniversary for it was in that month a year ago that Mrs. Seitei Taguchi arranged for Mrs. Gordon Allen to speak in the Washington Height's Officers Club about forming an international organization interested in Japanese flower arrangement. Not only was Mrs. Allen enthusiastic about her idea but she was able to infuse others with her spirit, so that before the end of August, Ikebana International was founded with a constitution written by our honorary advisor, Mr. Reikichi Yokohama, a board of officers chosen by Mrs. Allen, and a treasury into which the first twenty-three members paid their dues. The pace of the first year's growth, little short of phenomenal, augurs well for Ellen Allen's dream.

From Ikebana International Newsletter 12

Mr. Toshiro Shimanouchi, Counselor of Japanese Embassy, Washington, D.C., said in introductory remarks preceding a demonstration by Prof. Tsugii: "In the case of Ikebana, the interest in Japanese culture has been particularly strong and the spread has been wide, primarily because there is such an enthusiastic, active and dedicated group who have organized themselves as Ikebana International."

This lecture was a contribution to the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of official diplomatic relations between the United States and Japan.

From II Newsletter 94 — May 1967

A friend described an Ikebana International meeting as a "cultural jewel". What a beautiful expression. It epitomizes my idea of Ikebana and its related cultures as a precious stone sparkling with radiant lights and colors—a depth of richness which is the possession of all precious jewels. Yes, "a cultural jewel", this is Ikebana and its allied arts, and, we, of Ikebana International, are its setting. Guard and love it always.

Ellen Gordon Allen

From one of Mrs. Allen's lectures:

"The objective of our organization should be to ally oneself with another through a common interest for mutual benefit and enjoyment."

In celebrating the 10th anniversary of the founding of Ikebana International on August 17, 1956, we may also celebrate the 10th anniversary of the founding of the *first Chapter ever outside Japan*, namely our distinguished Washington, D.C. Chapter! Under the able leadership of Mrs. A. F. Striker, the Chapter's first President, and the Board of Directors, the Washington, D.C. Chapter was founded October 8, 1956!

I have watched the Chapter grow during the past 10 years. Its strength is derived from the enthusiastic and conscientious willingness of its members to cooperate and participate in sharing responsibilities which are vital to its existence.

What is more, the membership of the Chapter have "lived" the ideals of Ikebana International: the study and spread of the art of Ikebana together with the spirit, namely, harmony and friendship among us all.

Congratulations to each and every member of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of Ikebana International for the accomplishments of the past. The future of the Chapter is in your hands, so follow the pattern already set which will guarantee continued success!

Affectionately,
Ellen G. Allen

From 10th Anniversary II Newsletter 89 October 1966

With the foundation of our organization so firmly set up, the first ideal has been superbly accomplished—to stimulate and perpetuate the study and spread of Ikebana throughout the world. Our second ideal, which is twin to the first, is of equal if not greater importance—Friendship. Friendship is the SPIRIT of our organization. Let us start our tenth year with more spirit of friendship among us all—kindness, consideration, helpfulness, integrity and unselfishness. As Emerson said, "Do not make life hard for any." Let us through Ikebana and the spirit of friendship truly add to human happiness—ours and that of others.

To all of you who are responsible for such wonderful accomplishments and our membership throughout the world—all who have made Ikebana International a reality, with all my heart, I say, you have my profound admiration and congratulations and always, my love.

Ellen Gordon Allen

FROM WASHINGTON, D.C. CHAPTER #1 NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 1961

To our dear President and the members of our Washington, D.C. Chapter of Ikebana International, who are all really my Ikebana International daughters:

When our President, Mrs. Jones, asked me to write a little message to all of you on the occasion of our Fifth Birthday, I gladly consented. The difficulty is that I never "say a few words" and I never "write a few words", so I fear the mistake was made when she asked me to write a "little one".

As the Fifth Anniversary of our Washington, D.C. Chapter of Ikebana International approaches, we can now say with great pride that we have truly reached an important milestone. Yes, one year is important, even two years, but when you reach five years, there is a feeling of permanence, stability, and achievement which is most gratifying.

What has Ikebana, and Ikebana International meant to me?

Ikebana opened my mind and my eyes to wonders I never knew. From this art, I learned much about the Japanese people and their country. I studied and learned much about all forms of art, besides the allied arts of Japan. Next but far from least, I have made many friends through Ikebana and Ikebana International, not only here but all over the world. They are the "roses of Ikebana International to me."

Above all I have seen such beauty and wonders in nature that I never knew existed; I had to share all this with others! I could not contain myself and hence we have now a world wide organization of over 4,000 individuals making up Ikebana International.

Ikebana International was founded:

To cultivate and stimulate the continuous study and spread of the arts.

To spread the art and by it to develop a better understanding of the Japanese people and a better understanding among all of us of other nations, one with another.

To strengthen the friendships among teachers, Masters and fellow students, thereby keeping the "Ikebana family" together.

Above all, through the Ikebana Association to stimulate international friendships and the spread of good will throughout the world.

I see no reason why Ikebana cannot become a veritable garland of flowers surrounding the world with beauty and binding us all together in real and lasting friendship, a magnificent contribution from Japan to the world at large.

Let us do that here first, and then take in the world.

Ellen G. Allen

A TRIBUTE

*Written for 15th Founder's Day Luncheon, September 1971
Washington, D.C. Chapter #1*

Our distinguished Ikebana International Washington, D.C. Chapter No. 1, Inc., is truly THE PIONEER CHAPTER OF IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL. It was organized only six weeks after I founded Ikebana International Headquarters in Japan. I was charged, when I departed from the Orient, to obtain members and promote Chapters in this new-born organization.

When we organized in Washington, we had few guide lines, and only a few policies and rules, as the Headquarters was so young. We forged ahead, nevertheless, into unknown territories and unexplored regions of interest in Ikebana and Ikebana International which helped enormously to develop other Chapters in the United States and over the world.

When I look back at the courage of the women here in Washington, and especially of Mrs. Arthur F. Striker, our First President, and her executive board, who so willingly accepted the responsibility to "pioneer the way", we can see now, after fifteen years of our Chapter's existence, that the foundations were well laid and the pattern set at that time for the future success and development of the organization.

It seems to me that it is appropriate at this time for all of us to express our appreciation and gratitude to our Pioneer and First President of the Chapter, Mrs. Arthur F. Striker and her Board. The first elected officers were: Mrs. Arthur de la Mare (now Lady de la Mare), First Vice President; Madame Shimanouchi, Second Vice President; Mrs. Oral J. Jensen, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Howard S. Maney, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Marion C. Miller, Treasurer. Likewise appreciation is due all of our past presidents and their boards, who have so ably administered the affairs of the Chapter during its fifteen years of existence. The outlines of their regimes, that form the History of the Chapter, present an excellent record of continued accomplishments and progress.

Above all let us continue to promote and study Ikebana, and most of all, the spirit of our organization—"Friendship through Flowers". This motto was given to us by Stella Coe, Founder of the London Chapter. Let us LIVE BY IT TODAY, TOMORROW, and ALWAYS.

Ellen Gordon Allen

FOND REMINISCENCES

by
Medrith Striker

Throughout the nineteen years of Ellen Allen's and my close friendship, we had many, many, happy, glorious and fun times together. From the time she was a "substitute" speaker for my garden club in 1953 through many Ikebana lessons, the revising of her "Nutshell Ikebana Primer" in 1954 in which I had a part, her sojourn in Rome, to Japan where Ikebana International was born (she had talked of such an organization while we worked on the book), the organization of Chapter #1 in my home on October 9, 1956—a week after she arrived home, getting our chapter going, her organizing the First Ikebana Study Tour to Japan because she said, "For one who loves Ikebana as you do Medrith, you must see Japan!" That was the beginning of our four tours to Japan and one to England and one to Malta.

Of all the "happy, glorious and fun times" we had together the most hilarious and perhaps infamous (!) was our taxi trip to Harrisburg, Pa., in 1960. It all happened as follows:

In 1959, when Mrs. Allen and I took the First Ikebana Study Tour to Japan, we were asked by a U.S. Merchandising Association (a group of large department stores) to invite a Master of some Ikebana School to come to the U.S. in 1960 to present Ikebana demonstrations at their various stores all over the U.S.

We had intensive classes at Ohara and Sogetsu Schools in Tokyo, at the Ikenobo and Saga Schools in Kyoto. At the Ohara School and Saga School both Headmasters Ohara and Tsujii conducted the classes personally. Since Headmaster Ohara had visited the U.S. in 1958, we decided to invite Headmaster Tsujii to the U.S. for the merchandising Association. His immediate answer was, "When do we start?" His life-long dream came true—to visit the U.S.A.

So it came to pass in early March of 1960, Headmaster Koshu Tsujii and son, Hakushu, arrived on the west coast and began their Tour across the U.S. I am not sure of all of the cities visited, but among those, Los Angeles, Dallas, St. Louis, Atlanta, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C. Also Des Moines and San Francisco. Mrs. Allen and I had no idea Mr. Tsujii was 76½ years old! (Born Nov. 5, 1883). He became ill in Atlanta and was hospitalized with pneumonia. Ellen's daughter, Mary Poage, visited him daily and made phone reports to Ellen. We were very worried, but he bounced back and continued north on his Tour.*

*See *I. I. Magazine* No. 12, Spring-Summer, 1963, page. 60. Mr. Koshu Tsujii's death, January 30, 1963.

When he arrived in Harrisburg, Pa., for the I.I. Chapter program, Ellen and I planned to go to Harrisburg by bus. She had to be back for a family dinner party that night, so we had plane tickets for the return trip.

As it was Thursday, my husband's driving pool day, I rode in with the driving pool, arriving at the bus station shortly before 8 A.M. for a 9:30 bus departure. Ellen arrived about 9 o'clock and had to have a cup of coffee. We sat talking and waiting for our bus departure announcement over the blaring loud speaker. All of a sudden—it was past 9:30 and we had not heard our bus announced! We dashed to the ticket window and were told that the Harrisburg bus had left ten minutes before! We scrambled for dimes and called the airport and the other bus line—nothing available! Ellen kept saying over and over, "O, we have got to get there, we've just got to get there—I'm supposed to introduce Prof. Tsujii—we've got to get there!! My car is in the garage for minor repairs, let's get it and be on our way". So we flagged a taxi and started to get her car. We had not gone a block when Ellen said to the old taxi driver, "What would you charge to drive us to Harrisburg?" He pulled over to the curb and thought a minute and said "\$40.00 ladies, but I don't know how to get there." We went into a huddle. Ellen had her maid's money and I had my grocery money. So the decision was made—on to Harrisburg via taxi. Our driver stopped to fill up with gas and we were off—with no map—about 90 miles—giggling like two nit wits. At the south edge of Baltimore we decided to take the tunnel road around to the north of Baltimore thinking it was a short cut—but it was a long cut! Then our jolly old taxi driver started stopping at filling stations. I said "Why are we stopping, you filled up with gas before we left Washington?" He answered "Well ladies, I just need to stop". So we made several necessary stops.

After we passed York, Pa., Ellen started bouncing on the back seat, clapping her hands and singing "We're going to make it—we're going to make it, Medrith"! I said, "Hey, don't be so rambunctious!" She started laughing so hard I thought she would choke! I said, "Calm down it wasn't that funny". When she could talk, she said "those were the exact words my Father used to say to me as a little girl whenever I got overly energetic, 'Ellen don't be so rambunctious.' That is why it was so funny to me."

All the way Ellen kept asking "Do you think we should turn in our plane tickets and go home by bus?" I finally answered her, "Ellen, we are in this up to our necks, we might as well go whole hog and go home by plane as planned—anyway—we would probably miss the bus!"

We arrived late at Mr. Tsujii's demonstration. Ellen dashed down the center aisle and Prof. Tsujii's face broke into a great smile—worth the taxi ride. Louise Hoff asked "What happened to you folks?" Ellen burst out, "We missed the bus and came by taxi." Louise asked "A taxi from Washington?!!" And then the whole audience broke up!

After the delightful demonstration, the Harrisburg members got us on the plane back to Washington and we laughed all the way home, when we should have been concocting our story to tell our families!

At the airport Ellen's family met her and at dinner she told the whole taxi story! Of course the first thing they asked was "How in the world did you happen to have enough money along!" So she told how she had the maid's money and I had the grocery money.

On our way to dinner, my husband asked "How was the trip to Harrisburg?" My reply was, "Just fine, the demonstration was lovely" Before long the Harrisburg taxi story was known throughout the chapter.

Occasionally Berma McDowell would laughingly say "Medrith, if you don't tell your husband about that taxi ride to Harrisburg, I'm going to black mail you". So at the Ikebana Cherry Blossom Show two years later, Berma and Ellen came up to him and said, "Strike, did Medrith ever tell you about Ellen's and her taxi ride to Harrisburg?" So we told him the story. Strike put his arm around me and said, "That's my girl". He had forgotten about a lean week two years ago.

1973—Index of Ikebana International magazine No. 1-37

Compiled as a project of the New York Chapter, dedicated to the memory of Ellen Gordon Allen.

Highlight, 3rd Ikebana Study Tour 1962

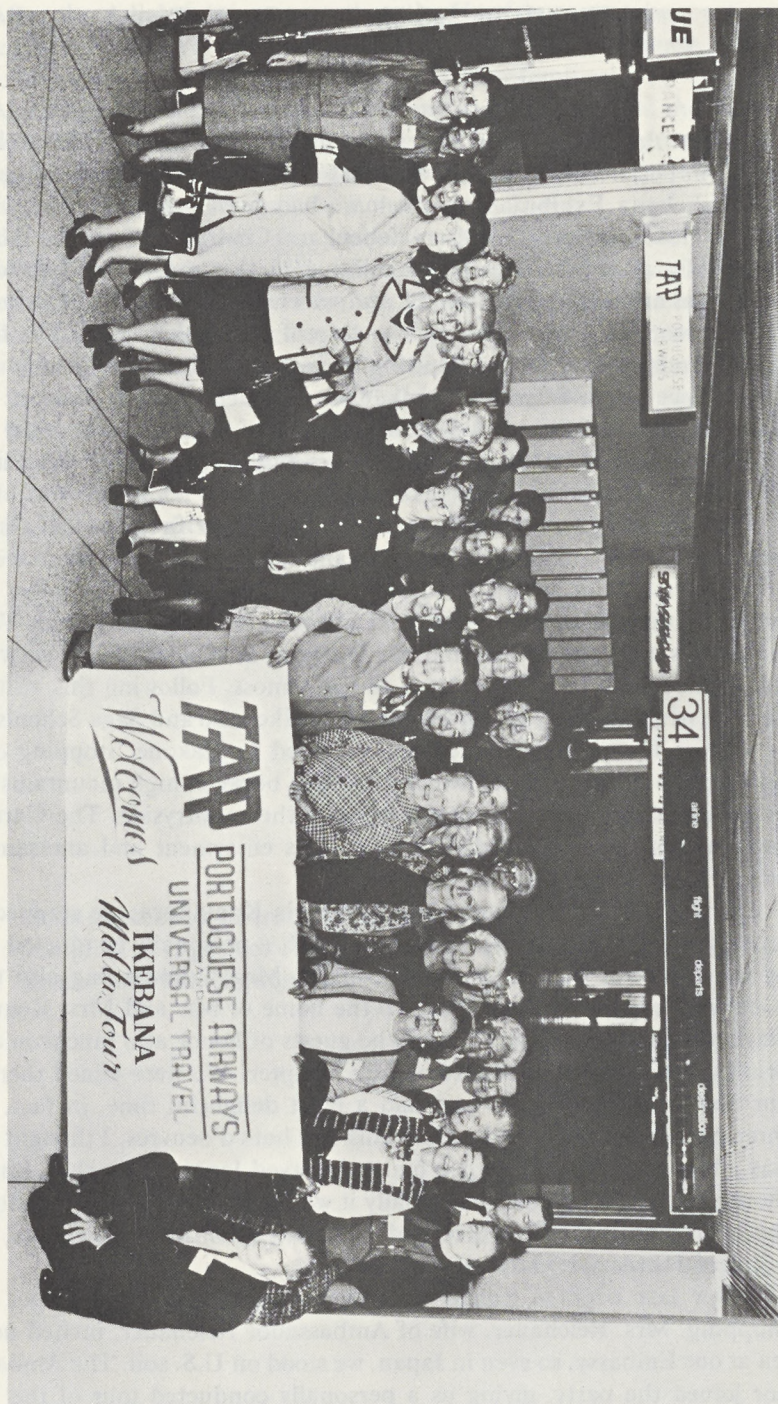
Upon the arrival of the Tour, we remained in Tokyo for the weekend at the Imperial Hotel, then flew to Osaka to participate in the International Ikebana Exhibition to which we had been invited by Mr. Houn Ohara, Headmaster of the Ohara School and Chairman of the Exhibition. Practically all of the members exhibited in this marvelous Exhibition which was attended by thousands, and which was held at the Matsuzukia Department Store under the sponsorship of the Sankei Press. The highlight for me was the honor of cutting the ribbon to open the Show, due to the absence of our International Ikebana President, Mrs. J. S. Scott, who was in the United States. A beautiful reception followed, and many fine speeches were presented by officials in conjunction with the Exhibition. This was the first major highlight of the Tour!

We then proceeded to Kobe at the end of our first week in Osaka, where we visited Takamatsu on the Inland Sea. We motored by to see the new Ohara School, which has just been finished—one of the most gorgeous buildings I have ever seen, and where we will study next year. Takamatsu was a charming spot and our first stop at a Japanese Hotel, which the members of the Tour enjoyed to the utmost. Following this visit, we flew the next day to Kyoto for our studies at Ikenobo and Saga Schools.

From Kyoto we entrained and motored to Hakone, stopping overnight at the Fujiview Hotel, which is hidden between high mountains and deep gorges, providing wonderful views of the countryside. The Gardens surrounding the Hotel added to everyone's enjoyment and amazement, and all want to return to Fujiview.

From Hakone we returned to Tokyo via Kamakura; we stopped off to see the great Buddha at Kamakura, with a personally conducted tour by the Abbot of the Temple and his wife, Mrs. Saito, seeing also their home and superb gardens. Then to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Davis who had invited our Tour to be guests of honor at a luncheon celebrating the birthday of the Kamakura Chapter! We were joined there by our members from Tokyo and had a most delightful time, in fact, had three parties in one (I call it). Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, I thought that was all; to my surprise we then had tray served Japanese lunches. I again thought that was all, and then finally it was announced it was time to cut the cake, and with the coffee and the celebration of the birthday, this wonderful three party luncheon was over!

Our last week in Tokyo was hectic—classes, social activities and shopping. Mrs. Reichauer, wife of Ambassador Reichauer, invited us for tea at our Embassy, so even in Japan, we stood on U.S. soil. The Ambassador joined the party, giving us a personally conducted tour of the Embassy, its works of art and other items of special interest.



Last Tour—Malta.
Ellen Allen, Medrith Striker, Leaders.

Also, our Ikebana International Headquarters and Chapter included us as guests of honor at their regular monthly meeting, held at Prince Hotel. My tour members presented a lovely Ikebana Exhibition for everyone's enjoyment, and I proceeded to present a "Question and Answer" program on the background and development of Ikebana International, touching on things many members do not know. Mrs. Komine, Program chairman, graciously assisted by asking the questions and then interpreting the information to our Japanese members. To my surprise, Mrs. Stanley, Acting President during Mrs. Scott's absence, presented me with the first Ikebana International pin as a gift, which delighted me.

Our last special highlight, and which past Tour members will recall, was the lovely hospitality extended to all of us from Mrs. Ragnar Smedslund, wife of the Finnish Ambassador, first member of Ikebana International and Vice President, but what is more, she is the "Ambassador par excellence" at all times for us, and no one could be more generous and kind. In Mrs. Smedslund's little greeting to us, she likened our Tour to the Swallows of Capistrano. As each spring comes along, we are ready to "fly like the swallows" to Japan! Hence the name, "The Flight of the Swallows to Japan".

So the Tour closes—one month of the most wonderful Ikebana instruction of the finest caliber; often the master instructs us himself, which is unheard of except for Japanese teachers. The instructions are clear and definite. When interpretation is needed, it is available. And the study at four of Japan's most renowned schools is an experience worth the trip. Especially when you consider that we not only learn Ikebana in the land of its origin, we meet and get to know slightly, the Japanese and we see the wonderful land of the Rising Sun, and the beauty with which it is blessed. These are the objectives, and I can truly say that the Tour provides everything we could ask for, so get ready now for next year. We are working on the 4th Annual Ikebana Tour now.

One of the last and very nicest experiences I had was that Ruth Scott, our President, finally arrived home, so that I had a brief but delightful visit with her before my departure. To all of you, I know how pleased you will be to hear of the pleasure and enjoyment she had in America; not only praise of the Get-To-Gether and every detail, but the other visits she had made to other Chapters on her return across the continent.

The last and truly touching gesture from dear Mr. Koshu Tsujii at the Saga School, was the award that I received from the Abbott of the Diakakuji Temple. At the closing ceremonies of our class, and to my utter surprise and amazement, the Abbott presented me with a Buddhist Decoration in appreciation of my efforts to spread Ikebana and good will. So from then on, the Tour members called me "The Abbess" or "Mother Abbess". That is quite a jump from my old name of "Den Mother".

THE FOUNDER'S TOURS

Through the summer of 1954 as I was helping Mrs. Allen revise her book "Ikebana in a Nutshell" she often said to me, "Medrith, anyone who loves Ikebana as you do should see Japan". I would always answer, "Ellen, the U.S. Geographical Survey does not send their people to Japan. Saudi Arabia, perhaps, but not Japan." Then once she said, "When I get back from Rome, we'll take a tour to Japan." So it came to pass that the tours were organized and all were very successful.

- 1959 — First Study Tour to Japan—Mrs. Frank Allen, Jr. and Mrs. Arthur F. Striker, Leaders.
- 1961 — Second Study Tour to Japan—Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Striker, Leaders.
- 1962 — Third Study Tour to Japan—Mrs. Allen, Leader.
- 1965 — Fourth Tour to attend First World Convention in Tokyo—Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Striker, Mrs. Robert E. Creighton (Chattanooga, Tennessee), Leaders.
- 1969 — Fifth Tour to England and Scotland. Attended the London Symposium at High Leigh—Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Striker, Leaders.
- 1970 — Sixth Tour to Japan to Second World Convention—Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Striker, Mrs. Herbert A. Crawmer, Mrs. Yone Sugiyama (the latter two from Baltimore), Leaders.
- 1971 — Seventh Tour to Symposium in Malta—Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Striker, Mrs. Clarice Brazeal, Leaders.
- 1973 — Eighth Tour to England and Europe—Attended London Symposium—Mrs. Striker, Mrs. John W. Marsh, Leaders.

And here it is 1976—off we go to the Third World Convention in Tokyo with another exciting tour planned for October 1976. This time my co-leaders will be Carolyn Marsh, Florida, Irma Crawmer, Baltimore and Martha Neese from South Carolina.

Do join us!

Medrith Striker

NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCES AND WORLD CONVENTIONS

- 1962 — Washington, D.C.
- 1963 — Sacramento, California
- 1964 — New York City
- 1965 — First World Convention, Tokyo
- 1966 — Atlanta, Georgia
- 1968 — Boston, Massachusetts
- 1970 — Second World Convention, Tokyo
- 1972 — San Francisco, California
- 1976 — Washington, D.C.
- 1976 — Third World Convention, Tokyo

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Obituaries

THE SUNDAY STAR
Washington, D. C.
June 11, 1972

Mrs. Frank A. Allen Jr., 74, Founder of Flower Society

Mrs. Frank A. Allen Jr., 74, founder of the international flower-arranging society Ikebana, died yesterday at George Washington University Hospital after a heart attack at her home on Wyoming Avenue NW.

When the former Ellen Gordon graduated from Georgetown Visitation Convent School in Georgetown in 1916, she received its Loretto Medal for general excellence. She served as the school's alumni association president in 1949.

In 1922 she married Army Maj. Gen. Frank A. Allen Jr., now retired who served in World Wars I and II and in Korea, as well as on Gen. MacArthur's staff in Japan.

She started Ikebana International, a Japanese style flower arranging society which now has more than 10,000 members, in 1956. In 1965 she received the Fifth Order of the Precious Crown, an honor given by the Japanese government with the authorization of the emperor.

She was a member of the Army Daughters, the Junior Army-Navy Guild Organization, the Christ Child Society, the Seton Guild, the Japan-America Society and the



Mrs. Frank A. Allen Jr.

Washington-Tokyo Club.

Besides her husband, she leaves two sons, Col. Walter G., of Arlington, and Frank III, of New York City; two daughters, Mrs. Laura Weir of Loudonville, N.Y., and Mrs. (Mary) Douglas Poage of Alexandria, and 12 grandchildren.

Services will be held at 11:45 a.m. Tuesday in Ft. Myer Chapel, with burial in Arlington Cemetery.

Dear I. I. Friends:

A number of you have written to me asking for a newspaper clipping and more details concerning recent activities and the unexpected death of our dear Founder, Ellen G. Allen.

Looking back a month, we knew that she thoroughly enjoyed the Sixth North American Regional Conference in San Francisco.

On May 10th, Ellen and General Allen celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with a lovely dinner party for over 100 friends and members of their family at the Fort Myer Officers Club. Ellen looked beautiful in a gold dress—since that time we have been calling her our “golden girl.” (She was laid to rest in her golden dress). A high light of the evening was the attendance of Mrs. Mamie Eisenhower, who was present at their 25th wedding anniversary; also Madame Ushiba, of the Embassy of Japan.

Prof. and Mrs. Hakushu Tsujii visited our Chapter in late May and presented a Saga Program. We had many gay parties while they were here. He presented Ellen with the Saga School's bronze Shogonka container.

The last week, we all attended the I. I. Board Meeting on Tuesday, June 6. After the meeting Ellen and I went to see Mrs. Monat, our travel agent, to lay plans for the London Symposium Tour for April, 1973. Ellen installed the officers at our I. I. luncheon on Thursday, June 8, and was jolly and gay as usual. We talked that night and she planned to go to the Georgetown Convent (her school) to attend an all day retreat on Friday, June 9th. General Allen called me at 10:30 P.M., Friday and said “Medrith, I have some bad news, Ellen died at 9:00 P.M.” I was so shocked, I could hardly talk! He said she came home from the Convent very tired and lay down to rest. The attack struck about 6 P.M. She was rushed to the hospital where she never rallied. General Allen called Wayne Todd, past president—not being able to contact our president, Mrs. Godbey—and the two of us called I. I. members until midnight.

Saturday morning, Mrs. Godbey, our chapter president, Louise McKenzie, past president, and Hallie Pearson and I went to the Allen home to assist in anyway we could. Mrs. Godbey telephoned Tokyo Headquarters for instructions and notification of chapters and friends. Telegrams were dispatched by Carolyn Marsh to all the chapters in North America and cables sent to world-wide chapter members.

Ellen had made all of her funeral plans. She had written them out and given them to Wayne Todd in 1968. She had told us “after my funeral you are to come back to the apartment for a party, no weeping, I want a gay party”. Several years ago she had asked Irma Crawmer (Baltimore) and me to see that there was Ikebana for her funeral. I made a Shogonka

arrangement in the new Saga School bronze container, and placed it at the head of her casket. Irma Crawmer made a handsome Sogetsu arrangement in a bronze Sunabachi on a table nearby, and Hallie Pearson made a lovely Ohara arrangement for another table in the room. Many floral pieces were contributed and placed in the adjoining room. Her daughters, Laura and Mary, requested two Ikebana arrangements for the Ft. Myer Chaper altar. Irma Crawmer made these arrangements and they were placed on the Communion table, as suggested by the attending priest. The beautiful Communion Mass was offered and dear Ellen was laid to rest in Arlington Cemetery, just across the drive from the area where her parents, General and Mrs. Walter Henry Gordon, are buried. (Fort Gordon, Georgia, was named for Ellen's father).

Following the services, as she requested, about 75 friends and relatives returned to the Allen home for a buffet luncheon. Numerous times during the afternoon, as little groups conversed, I fully expected to turn and see Ellen at my shoulder asking "What are you all talking about?" And no doubt she *was* there.

We miss her so very much! Let us all carry on for her as she wished, with "Friendship through Flowers".

MEDRITH STRIKER

First President (1956-1958)

Washington, D.C. Chapter #1, Inc.



*"Is it the sound of mist
which is creeping through
white birches?"*
Shuoshi Mizuhara

*"Floating, hither . . . yon
The silent butterfly speaks
Through flowers, friendship."*

