

Ikebana International celebrated the tenth anniversary of its founding at a tea in the Diplomatic Rooms at the State Department on September 15th at which time the tenth birthday of the Washington, D. C. Chapter (the first Chapter of Ikebana International) was an important part of the festivities. The tea honored the founder, Mrs. Frank A. Allen, Jr. and the first President of the D. C. Chapter, Mrs. Arthur F. Striker. Many lovely and unusual flower arrangements were scattered throughout the reception rooms adding grace and beauty to the exquisite appointments.

Many wives of diplomatic and government officials attended this lovely affair. During the tea a beautiful silver tray was presented to Mrs. V. Alexis Johnson whose husband is the new Ambassador to Japan. "Birthday presents", a surprise to all the past presidents of Ikebana International, were given by Mrs. Paul E. Todd, new president of the D. C. Chapter.

It was truly a gala occasion with the arrival of 158 teachers of the O'Hara School of Flower Arrangement on tour of the United States. They were dressed in their gorgeous kimonos, thus transplanting a bit of Japan to Washington that afternoon and giving all of those who have visited Japan a few pangs of nostalgia.

Ikebana International's growth during the past ten years has mushroomed from the original few members to a membership of 7,000, with chapters throughout the world in Argentina, Australia, Hong Kong, England, India, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Okinawa, Korea, Phillipines and the United States. Headquarters are in Tokyo where an international Board of Directors meets monthly on affairs concerning "I.I.". This remarkable organization was the "dream" of Ellen G. Allen who conceived the idea while living in Japan during 1950-1952 where her husband was stationed with the U. S. Army. Her idea

was received with such enthusiasm by the Masters and teachers in Japan that soon this "dream" became a reality. The purpose of the organization as expressed in the Constitution is "to stimulate and cultivate the continuous study of Ikebana and spread the art throughout the world for an understanding of it and the Japanese people and to strengthen the friendships between teachers, Masters and students". Judging by the tremendous growth of "I.I." in ten short years, this purpose is being met not only in the study of this ancient art but is helping its members to experience and enjoy the various cultures of its many member nations. They have found a common bond of peace and understanding while working together harmoniously.

Activities in the Washington area are varied and many. The Washington area membership, totalling about 500, is divided into six workshops which meet monthly for study in the various schools of flower arrangement. During the year three general workshops are held at which time teachers are available to instruct beginning, intermediate or advanced students in the art of flower arranging. These are productive, creative sessions of great benefit to all who attend. Luncheons are also a part of the yearly activities.

Perhaps one of the most interesting activities of "I.I." is the Cherry Blossom Festival held usually in early April. The members "take over" the National Housing Center for the purpose of displaying their art. The six area workshops vie with each other to show their many talents by creating, perhaps, a replica of a Japanese garden or an abstract design, a tokonoma or even a corner of a Japanese tea house. Individual arrangements are placed throughout the building and demonstrations in various schools are held daily. This festival is well attended all week revealing great interest and a growing respect for this ancient art.

Members of "I.I." expand the understanding of Japanese flower arranging by participating in other area functions such as the annual tea for the Japanese-International Christian University, Embassy tours and teas, the Christmas Greens Show held annually at the Botannical Gardens, the Garden Club Show at the National Armory, etc.

In recognition of Mrs. Allen's outstanding contribution to Japanese-American friendship and understanding in forming this unique organization, the Japanese Government by order of His Majesty, the Emperor of Japan, in June of 1965 awarded her the Order of Merit of the Precious Crown, one of Japan's highest peacetime decorations and one of the few times such an honor has been bestowed upon a woman. Thus, with the conflicts in the world today, any bit of understanding that comes from working together with a few flowers to create a thing of beauty is a rewarding experience and Ikebana International in every way is helping to strengthen and develop these ties of peace and harmony.

Pertinent facts about Mrs. Allen:

Husband: Major General Frank A. Allen, Jr. (ret)

Children: Four -- 12 grandchildren

Teaching certificates in Ohara , Saga, Sogetsu and Ikenobo Schools.

Author of two books: "Japanese Flower Arrangement in a Nutshell" now in its 18th printing

and "Japanese Flower Arrangement, A Complete Primer".

Japanese Arrangements Should Reflect Nature

By CLARE WHITE
Times Women's Editor

"Let the container or vase be the good earth and let the flowers appear to be growing from it."

This is the creed of Japanese flower arrangers, said Ellen Gordon Allen Tuesday. Mrs. Allen gave a talk and exhibition on Ikebana, the art of Japanese flower arrangement, to the fall meeting of the Blue Ridge District of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs (VFGC). The luncheon meeting was held at the Salem-Roanoke Valley Civic Center.

Mrs. Robert L. Little, president of the district, presided at the meeting which was attended by 172 members representing 60 garden clubs. The attendance award was tied by the South Side and Arboretum garden clubs, both of Blacksburg, each of which had 36 per cent of the club present.

Mrs. Allen, a white-haired charmer, earned her teacher's certificate in Ikebana when she lived in Japan from 1950 to 1952 while her husband was assistant division commander of the 1st Cavalry Division in Korea. In 1956 she founded Ikebana International, an organization with more than 5,000 members in 87 chapters all over the world. She was recently decorated with the Japanese Order of the Precious Crown for her work in this regard.

Ikebana is a "true art," said Mrs. Allen. It embodies the five qualities of an art: it is founded on principle, it has rules, it employs techniques, it reflects the era in which it is created, and it is a creative expression.

Noting that Ikebana uses all of nature, not just flowers, Mrs. Allen illustrated her point with seven arrangements which she made for the women to see.

A running commentary not only explained what she was doing, it also offered glimpses into her life as an Army child and, later, an Army wife. She admitted, in a whisper, that she had never belonged to a garden club until she went to Washington to live a few years ago.

She gave bits of advice on the mechanics of flower arranging as she worked. She

showed the gardeners how to anchor a too-short woody stem in a vase by splitting it and using a stick to brace it against the side of the container. She also advised them to cut flower stems under water saying, "it's air in the stem that kills flowers."

Mrs. Allen's first arrangement was an asymmetrical triangle, a basic form of Ikebana. Others included a mass arrangement, a modern arrangement using century plant leaves and birds of paradise, two complementing arrangements, one high and one low; and two "sympathetic" arrangements in one container.

For one creation she used a curved bare branch. When asked what it was, she said she didn't know. "I picked it up off the street."

Admonishing the women never to throw anything out, she showed them what could be done with wilted calla lilies. She cut away the petals and made a modern ar-

rangement with flower "candles" of what was left.

"The Japanese never throw anything away."

Some rules of Ikebana she stressed were that the holders must be covered and the arrangement should be capable of being viewed from all sides. It should never be touched, but should be admired from at least 3 feet away.

She advised anyone wishing to study Ikebana to "take at least 12 lessons to learn what you're trying to do." Then the student is ready to study the art seriously.

Mrs. Allen is the author of two books on Japanese flower arranging. Her first one "Japanese Flower Arrangement in a Nutshell," was written in 1952 while she and her husband were stationed at Ft. Gordon, Ga. The first edition was published in Japan. A revised edition, "Japanese Flower Arrangement, a Complete Primer," was published in 1962.

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Ikebana International

Washington, D. C. Chapter

October 27, 1966

Mr. Houn Ohara
135 Senbonda Gunge, Mikage-cho
Higashinada-ku, Kobe, Japan

Dear Mr. Ohara,

Thank you so much for your very nice letter. It was indeed a pleasure to meet your Ohara Teachers while they were in Washington, D.C. We only regret that you could not be with us for our 10th Birthday Celebration.

I am inclosing six more copies of the newspaper clipping. Perhaps some of your tour members would like a copy. We thought it a very interesting picture.

Mrs. Allen and the other members of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of I.I. join me in sending to you and the other members of your tour, every good wish. We will long remember your visit with much pleasure.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Paul E. Todd
President

Encl: a/s



HOUN OHARA

OHARA CENTER OF TOKYO

7-14 5-chome, Minami Aoyama
Minato-ku, Tokyo

135 Senbenda Gunge, Mikage-cho,

Higashinada-ku, Kobe,
Japan

IEMOTO KAIKAN HEADQUARTERS

1846 Kokonoe-aka, Sumiyoshi-cho,
Higashinada-ku, Kobe

October 17, 1966

Mrs. Paul E. Todd
8305 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria, Va. 22308
U. S. A.

Dear Mrs. Todd:

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to you for your kindness shown to our Ikebana Tour group of the Ohara teachers during their recent visit to Washington, D. C. It was indeed very thoughtful of you to arrange the White House Tour for them. They enjoyed it immensely as well as attending the Tea.

The reception we received during our entire trip certainly surpassed all expectations. It was most gratifying to feel the goodwill existing between our countries, and may it continue to deepen during the coming years. May I take this opportunity to express my thanks for the success due greatly to your sincere support and cooperation, and please extend my appreciation and regards to the other members of your chapter.

Sincerely yours,

Houn Ohara

Houn Ohara
Headmaster

HC:nk

September 29, 1966

Mr. Houn Chara
The Chara School of Japan
135 Gunge Seshonda Mikage-machi
Higashinada-ku, Kobe, Japan

Dear Mr. Chara,

I do hope that your visit and the visit of your Chara Teachers to the United States was perfect in every way. Tomorrow you will be returning to Japan.

We in Washington enjoyed the few short hours we had with your teachers. It was so thoughtful of you to send a greeting and gifts to Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Striker on the anniversary of the 10th Birthday of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of Ikebana International. We only wish that you could have been here in person.

I am enclosing a clipping which I am sure you will enjoy. I am hoping to be able to send you more copies later.

Thank you, and your teachers, again for a most enjoyable visit.

Most sincerely,

Mrs. Paul E. Todd
President

Encl/a/s
Copy: Mrs. M.F. Neese, Jr.

August, 28, 1966

Mr. Masahiko Kogura,
Governor Clinton Hotel
7th Ave. at 31st St.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Kogura,

I am enclosing a letter which I wrote to Mrs. Frank Dean in regard to the tour of the Chars teachers to Washington, D.C.

We are pleased to inform you that we have been able to arrange a V.I.P. tour of the White House. Please arrange to have your tour members at the East Gate of the White House promptly at 9:30 A.M., Thursday September 15, 1966. Mrs. Gerald Draley, Mrs. Roy DeVecchio and I will meet the tour members at that time and act as escorts through the White House. The tour will last no longer than one hour, which will then give you and the teachers from 10:30 to 1 to tour the city, arrangements for which you should make. Our Esbana International Birthday tea will be from 1 to 3 P.M. at the State Department.

Our State Department requires that we give to them all names of those planning to tour the White House and also attend our I.I. Birthday tea at the State Department. You have already furnished me with these names however, we must have all cancellations no later than September 5th.

As I explained to Mrs. Neese in Tokyo and also to Mrs. Dean, we regret that we must charge for tea and it will be \$2.00 per person. Please collect this in advance since no money may be collected at the State Department. We have invited Mr. and Mrs. Chars and Mrs. Hoga Fujiwara as our guests. Please collect no money from them.

Thank you for your assistance. We of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of I.I. are looking forward to your visit.

Most sincerely,

Mrs. Paul E. Todd
President

August 28, 1966

Mrs. Frank Dean
1 Alston Court
Red Bank, New Jersey

Dear Mrs. Dean,

It has been the pleasure of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of I.I. to have as their guest, Mrs. Hoga Fujimura, for the past three days. Mrs. Fujimura conducted two most informative and enjoyable workshops. She is indeed a credit to the Chaka School.

On September 15th, we are expecting 166 Chaka teachers, including Mr. and Mrs. Houn Chara, to be in Washington. Our Washington, D.C. Chapter of I.I. plans to take our foreign visitors on a V.I.P. tour of the White House and later they will be with us in the Diplomatic Rooms of the State Department for a tea honoring our Founder, Mrs. Frank A. Allen, Jr. and Mrs. Arthur F. Striker our first president.

In a letter from Mr. Houn Chara dated July 30, 1966, I received a membership list of this expected tour.

We have been able to arrange the tour of the White House. If their buses will plan to bring them to the EAST gate of the White House promptly at 9:30 A.M., they will be met by Mrs. Roy G. DeVecchio, Mrs. Gerald H. Braley and myself. We will act as escorts for them on this most interesting tour of our White House. The tour will be no longer than one hour, which will then give them from 10:30 to 1 o'clock to drive about the city.

The tea at the State Department will be from 1 to 3 P.M. We know that they must catch a 3:30 plane and also know that they will be with us at tea for about 30 minutes. We regret the short visit. We also regret that we must be so firm in the names of all attending both tour and tea. These are requirements of our State Department even for us of I.I. Would you be so kind as to inform us promptly if there are any cancellations. We must turn the names into the State Department no later than Sept. 5th. The names have already been turned into the White House.

We also regret that we are not financially able to have all of these friends as our guests but must ask that they pay \$2.00 per person for tea, and would they please collect this in advance since no money may be collected at the door.

It is our pleasure to have Mr. and Mrs. Houn Chara as our guests and we ask that they not send their money. Also, we have invited Mrs. Hoga Fujimura to come back again as our guest and be with us on this our special birthday.

It was Mrs. Fujisawa that taught Mrs. Allen and inspired her to organize Embara International. We feel it very fitting to have her with us.

Your assistance in this matter would be greatly appreciated. Mrs. Allen joins me in sending to you every good wish from the Washington, D.C. Chapter of I.I.

Most sincerely,

Mrs. Paul E. Todd
President

copy to Mrs. Roy C. DeVecchio
Mrs. Gerald M. Braley
Mr. Masahiko Kogura



THE OHARA SCHOOL OF JAPAN

135 GUNGE SEMBONDA MIKAGE-MACHI
HIGASHINADA-KU, KOBE.
TEL: KOBE 8-6459

July 30, 1966

Mrs. Paul Todd
305 Fort Hunt Rd.
Collingwood
Alexandria, Va. 22308
U. S. A.

Dear Mrs. Todd:

We deeply appreciate your kind effort for the Ohara Tour to visit the White House in Washington, D.C. on September 15. All the members of the Tour feel greatly privileged to be able to have such a Tour during their visit to your country. I am sure it will be long remembered by every member.

Regarding this Tour, Mrs. Neese called and asked me to confirm the arrangement that you kindly made for them; namely from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. on the above date. There will be approximately 160 members in the Tour as we informed you before. At your request through Mrs. Neese, I am enclosing two copies of the list of the names of the Tour members. We will be grateful to you if you kindly give one copy to the Chairman of the Founder's Tea for her reference. The Tour members will attend the Tea from 1:00 to 1:30 p.m. as you so thoughtfully arranged to fit in their schedule.

I sincerely hope that our Ohara teachers will contribute to the warm exchange of friendships between your members of Ikebana International and themselves.

My deep appreciation again to you for your wonderful co-operation to materialize the White House Tour for us. Please extend our warmest regards to your members of Ikebana International.

Sincerely yours,

Houn Ohara

Houn Ohara
Headmaster

HO:nk

July 21, 1966

Mrs. H.F. Neese, Jr.
Nasbana International President
Post Office Box, 1262
Tokyo, Japan

My dear Mrs. Neese,

Thank you for your letter of July 12, 1966. Some of the points you raised indicate that I didn't make myself clear in all respects in my previous letter.

As to the visit to the White House: The White House is open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis from ten until twelve each week day. Visitors see a limited number of rooms on the main floor, and the walk-thru takes from twenty to thirty minutes. This does not include the waiting in line which at times can be an hour or more. The Chara teachers would of course be welcome to take this tour.

A special, more closely controlled tour which includes more rooms in the White House is sometimes available if certain conditions are met. The tour begins at eight-thirty and lasts about forty-five minutes, with other groups following in sequence until ten o'clock. To take advantage of this more desirable tour, it is necessary that the names of each person participating be furnished to the White House Staff forty-five days in advance of the tour. They are very strict on this: if a person's name does not appear on their lists, the White House guards simply won't admit them. This means of course that you will have to send us by return mail the full names of all persons who desire to take the tour.

We are very happy to share with the Chara teachers our Founder's Tea. As to its time: we were authorized to use the Diplomatic Reception Rooms in the State Department subject to their availability following a luncheon being hosted by the Secretary of State on the same day as our tea. I believe that we can move the tea up to 1:00 P.M. with the understanding that Secy. Rusk and his guests just might leave the adjoining room and pass thru our group on their way to the elevator. We will try to make these arrangements.

Our invitation list includes Amb. and Mrs. Takeuchi and we will be glad to extend invitations to those whose names you provide. I am sorry that it is necessary to ask our guests (Japanese visitors) to pay at the tea, but our treasury just can't stand the drain of the many visitors to Washington- especially so large a group as the Chara teachers.

You could assist us in another way: One of our members, an Chara teacher received a letter from one of the expected visitors and in this letter it was stated that if the schedule in New York became so involved with their demonstration at the Macy Dept. Stores, that they just might have to miss Washington altogether. We are also required to furnish names of all attending the tea at the State Dept.

and it is indeed a privilege for us to be allowed to use the Diplomatic Rooms. We hope that we will not be embarrassed by our guest list being changed at the last minute. We plan to have name tags for all of our members and guests so that they will be quickly identified at the entrance of the State Dept.

Our tea must be catered and we can not afford to order for a large group and then have many of them not come. Even the caterer must be approved by the State Dept. I am sure you understand. Please make it clear that we are most happy to help with the Ohara teachers visit to Washington but we must have the names of those planning to be with us. Thank you for your assistance.

After mailing my last letter to you, I found that I had left out the information which we have on Ohara lessons. If these have been changed, would you please send me a correct copy.

I have the other information ready for you except for one letter and I would like to wait a few days longer hoping that I will be able to send the complete information at one time. Anna has been called out of town on an emergency and several of our last year officers are away on vacations, just as I have also been away.

I would like to have a copy of the minutes of the I.I. World Convention and an enclosing one dollar which I believe is the price of a single copy. If this is not correct please let me know.

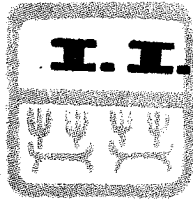
With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

Wayne E. Todd (Mrs. Paul E.)
President
Washington D.C. Chapter No. 1

Encl: a/s

IKEBANA International



Central P.O. Box 1262 Tokyo, Japan
Cable: Ikenational Tokyo

July 12, 1966

Mrs. Paul E. Todd
8305 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria, Va. 22308
Washington D. C. Chapter No. 1

Dear Mrs. Todd:

On Saturday, July 9, 1966 we were asked to confer with the Chara School executives concerning certain changes in their itinerary which affect their visit to Washington.

As I have written you previously, both Mr. Chara, Wakako and the teachers concerned were most delighted about the White House Tour on the morning of the 15th and they were looking forward with enthusiasm to your tea. However, their new schedule set up by the airlines requires that the tour leave Washington at 3:00 p.m. on the 15th instead of 11:30 a.m. on the 16th. This makes their afternoon very short and would limit their visit to your tea, possibly making it rather confusing by rushing in and out.

If it is possible for you we should like to suggest that your Tea hour begin at 1:00 p.m. This way they could tour the White House from 10 - 12, then arrive in group to the State Department by exactly 1:00 p.m. and leave for Dulles Airport at 1:45 p.m., allowing them one hour and fifteen minutes for the trip there. Their belongings will be placed on their buses early that morning and their tickets will be taken care of by their tour official Mr. Kogure. Please advise as soon as possible if this is feasible and if two or three of your members could meet them early on the 15th at their hotel and accompany them to the White House.

One other thing, Mr. Kanamari and Mr. Shiotani will be the senior Masters on the tour. The school has also requested that if the above is in agreement, they would like you to extend invitation to the Japanese Ambassador and two or three State Department officials who have requested an audience with them. I shall send you these names as soon as I receive them from Kobe.

Thanking you for your cooperation and for your kind attention to this letter.

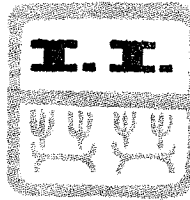
Most sincerely,

Martha P. Neese

Martha P. Neese (Mrs. M.F., Jr.)
International President

MPN:hi

IKEBANA International



Central P.O. Box 1262 Tokyo, Japan
Cable: Ikenational Tokyo

June 2, 1966

Mrs. Percy J. Veach
3086 S. Abingdon Street
Arlington, Va. 22206
Washington D. C. Chapter No. 1

Dear Mrs. Veach:

Enclosed is the itinerary of the Ohara School Teachers Tour scheduled for September 1966 which Mrs. Feerer mentioned to you in her letter of April 25, 1966.

Please let us hear from you concerning any plans you may have for meeting these teachers. We are in close contact with the school and will coordinate your plans, if any, with them.

Again we offer you assistance if you have any questions concerning this matter.

Wishing you a wonderful summer holiday and looking forward to the forthcoming new year in ikebana with you, I am,

Most cordially yours,

Martha P. Neese (Mrs. M. F., Jr.)
International President

Encl:

MPN:hi

Copy to Contact

June 13, 1966

Mrs. M.F. Neese, Jr.
Ikebana International President
P.O.Box 1262
Tokyo, Japan

My dear Mrs. Neese:

May I congratulate you as the new President of Ikebana International and pledge the support of myself and the Washington, D.C. Chapter for the coming year.

Mrs. Veach has given to me, as incoming president of the Washington, D.C. Chapter, your letter of June 2nd, with the itinerary of the Chaya School teachers tour to the U.S.

Mrs. Peerer's letter of April 25th arrived while we were attending the conference in Atlanta and at the board meeting in May a committee was appointed to research ways of appropriately honoring these teachers when visiting in Washington.

At the board meeting June 7th, the committee reported that the visit was near our opening "Founders Day" in September and that by juggling dates we could invite them to attend the "Founders Tea" to be held at the State Dept. on September 15th between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m.

This has taken some arranging as the State Department is very select in who may use the State Rooms and it is extremely hard to secure a date.

Of course our members are charged a nominal fee--to cover details of catering which are of no interest to you-- and the touring teachers will each be asked to also contribute a small fee,-- details to be finalized when plans are completed.

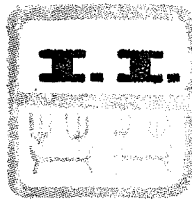
Therefore if at this time the tour itinerary could be arranged to give us the afternoon instead of the morning of September 15th will be greatly appreciated. You might tell them that the White House is open to visitors in the morning only.

I was so pleased to meet you in Atlanta and I am looking forward to working for I.I. with you. Have a most pleasant summer.

Most cordially yours,

Marion E. Todd (Mrs. Paul E.)

IKEBANA International



Central P.O. Box 1262 Tokyo, Japan
Cable: Ikenational Tokyo

April 25, 1966

Mrs. Percy J. Veach
3086 S. Sbrington Street
Arlington, Va. 22206
Washington D. C. Chapter No. 1

Dear Mrs. Veach:

The Ohara School is sponsoring a tour to the United States in September 1966 and we have just received a copy of the itinerary. At present 147 teachers will make the trip and it will be a wonderful opportunity for them to see the United States.

Mr. Ohara has requested that this information be passed along to you as he sincerely hopes that during the tour's visit to Washington they will have an opportunity to meet with the I.I. Chapter members.

You will note that the tour group will arrive in Washington by bus, on September 14th and depart on United Airlines at noon on September 16th. This leaves the 15th for sight-seeing in Washington and contact with the chapter.

This is only a suggestion - but perhaps interested members of your chapter could meet with the tour members at lunch or the dinner hour with each participant paying his own share. We all realize that any entertainment for a group as large as this is costly but we do urge you to explore all possibilities. We also want you to know that while Headquarters will appreciate any gesture of hospitality the chapter does make, we do not expect you to over extend your budget for such a large group.

You will probably hear directly from Mr. Ohara during the next few days and I hope you can "put your heads together" and work out a mutually satisfactory solution.

If you have any questions - or if we can assist you in any way, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Gail E. Feerer (Mrs. E. K.)
International President

Encl:

GEF:hi

Copy to: ✓ Mrs. Verner C. Aurell, 1st Vice-President

I hope this reaches you before May 3rd!