

FIRST
QUARTER
2011

ISSUE 9

OCHA NO WA

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CHADO URASENKE
TANKOKAI WASHINGTON DC ASSOCIATION

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OCHA NO WA

The name of our newsletter means "The Wa of Tea," where wa can refer to harmony or peace (as 和), story or talk (as 話), or circle or link (as 輪).

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Dear Fellow Tankokai Members:



As we approach 2011, the world and our country face many difficult challenges which our leaders are struggling to manage. We are fortunate that Tankokai provides us with delightful tranquil interludes that revive our spirits and refresh our minds in ways that enable us to be even better citizens and human beings.

Through its outreach programs at Hillwood and other venues, the members of the Washington chapter have introduced the aesthetic qualities and beauty of the tea ceremony to hundreds of Washington residents. Through diligent study and practice our members have become even more expert at preparing tea. Their frequent chakai have become well-known in the community.

I look forward to another great year for Urasenke and am confident that the Washington Chapter will continue to thrive in 2011. I wish all members a very happy and prosperous new year.

*- William Breer, President
Chado Urasenke Tankokai
Washington DC Association*

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual general meeting will be held on Sunday, February 13, 2011. During the meeting we will hold an election for the 2011-2012 board members. Please mark your calendar now.

Detailed information will be provided in mid January 2011.

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

Reston Multicultural Festival Demonstration

On Saturday, September 25, 2010, the Annual Cultural Festival was held at Reston Community Center. Along with Russian folk songs, Japanese Koto music, Taekwondo demonstration, and S. Carolina BBQ was our Association Tea Demonstration for the community. The audience this year was smaller than the past years, but they were curious and interested in the Way of Tea. The four principles of Wa, Kei, Sei, Jaku on the scroll were literally demonstrated throughout the tea serving procedure, though the state of tranquility of Jaku was livened up by occasional questions during the demonstration. Three people from the audience sat on the tatami next to the first guest, a member of the Association. They enjoyed being guests and the rest of the audience enjoyed watching them and the flawless otemae by the host. Japanese pampas grass was telling the coming of the fall among other flowers in a bamboo basket vase. The tea bowl with Mubyo gourds was to wish the guests good health. The intention of the host was understood through those utensils. It was worth participating in Reston's endeavor to introduce and have the community appreciate different cultures in various forms.

- Takako Dickinson

Otsukimi Chakai—Moon Appreciation Tea Gathering

On September 25th, over forty people enjoyed the Way of Tea demonstration at the Textile Museum. The event was organized by the Japan-America Society of Washington DC, and three Association members helped make it happen. The writing 雪月花 “snow-moon-flower” was hung in the alcove. Flowers were not displayed because of the Museum regulations. Four guests were recruited from the audience, and the host made bowls of tea in Ryurei-style “standing-bow-style” with Misono-dana “garden table”. The audience received a crash-course on how to eat sweets and drink thin tea. We all left with a feeling of serenity in the light of a September moon.

- Yumi Yamasaki

Autumn Tea Ceremony

This year's Autumn Tea Ceremony was held at the Hillwood Museum on October 10, 2010. We were afraid that the three-day Columbus Day weekend would affect the attendance, but more than ten of our members were present. We were also honored to have Mrs. Fujisaki, wife of Ambassador Fujisaki; Mr. and Mrs. Iwatake of the Sasaki Peace Foundation; Branch instructor Ms. Miyahara; and Tankokai North America Association Director from New York, Ms. Kayoko Hirota.

The scroll selected for the occasion was



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ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES, CONTINUED



“日々是好日” (Nichi nichi kore konichi, meaning "Any day should be the best day of one's life"), and the flowers underneath it were those from the museum garden, arranged in a bamboo vase. For this table-style ceremony we used a Misono-dana donated by Dr. Sachiko Kuno. Our first “立礼式 ryu-rei shiki” was a great success. Tea from Kyoto and sweets named 「里の秋 sato-no-aki」 (which were handmade by Ms. Ichimura) were served to our guests.

The gathering allowed members and guests not only to enjoy tea but one another. We look forward to seeing many of our members and guests at our future tea ceremonies.

- Norie Watanuki

Afternoon Tea, Japanese Style

On November 4, 2010, Mrs. Yoriko Fujisaki, the Japanese Ambassador's wife, hosted an Afternoon Tea for the members of the Women's Committee of the Trust for the National Mall at her residence. The Tea began with a lecture titled “Mrs. Taft Plants a Tree” by Ambassador John Malott of the Japan-America Society of Washington DC. The “tree” is the first cherry tree to be planted in Tidal Basin by Mrs. Helen Taft, wife of U.S. President William Howard Taft.



After the lecture, the guests moved to the Tea House “Yu-Yu-An”. Volunteers from the Tankokai Washington DC Association demonstrated *Chanoyu* and served tea to the guests. Mrs. Fujisaki spoke about *Chanoyu* and *Kimono*. Two of the guests volunteered to wear *Kimono* and act as guests in the *Chanoyu* demonstration.

The Association's volunteers were honored to be able to use the Embassy's *Dougu* and the opportunity to introduce *Chanoyu*. They especially enjoyed the view of the pond, Japanese maples and waterfall surrounding the Tea House.

- Mioko Miller

Tea Class at JASW

We held our first introductory tea class at the Japan-America Society of Washington DC (JASW) in November 2010. Two students participated in the five two-hour sessions, and many guests from JASW and Sasakawa joined us to enjoy tea. We hope to do it again next year.

- Norie Watanuki

DOGU SPOTLIGHT: MY KYO-YAKI CELADON MIZUSASHI

The acquisition of my celadon mizusashi came as the result of a pottery tour to Japan in 2003. Although the focus of our trip was on the famous pottery centers of Japan, while in Kyoto we also paid a visit to the atelier and home of Fukami Sueharu. Sueharu-san is well-known throughout the ceramic world for his bluish-white seihakuji (half-porcelain 青白磁) contemporary pieces. I fell in love with the color of the glaze and knew that eventually I would find a piece of celadon to add to my collection.

On return to Kyoto, I had a chance to do some shopping and spotted the mizusashi at one of my favorite cha dogu shops along Gojo, not far from Kiyomizu-dera. What caught my eye was the blue cast to the glaze in contrast to the more common yellow-green toned celadon glazes. It also had a coolness to the pattern that I thought would go well with my spring and summer chawan. Of course, celadon is an appropriate formal style that can be used year round. The mizusashi comes from the Momoyama kiln in Kyoto [京都桃山窯] and the potter's name is Gaku-ryo (岳陵).



- Margaret Ann Linn

MEMBERSHIP

If you have not already renewed your membership for 2011 or officially joined Chado Urasenke Tankokai Washington DC Association, we invite you to do so. Also, please let us know of any changes in your address, phone number, or e-mail address.

Membership categories are: Individual \$30.00, Family \$50.00, Student \$20.00, and Corporate or Institution \$75.00. Please make your check payable to Urasenke Tankokai Washington DC Association, and send it to:

Chado Urasenke Tankokai Washington D.C. Association
P.O. Box 138
McLean, VA 22101

If you have questions or would like further information, including the address to send your membership dues payment, please e-mail me at membership@tankokaidc.org.

- Katie Bechtold, Membership Secretary

2009-10 OFFICERS

President: William T. Breer

Vice President: Masakazu Watanuki

Chief of Administration: Norie Watanuki

Treasurer: Mioko Miller

Event Secretary: Aiko Ichimura

Membership Secretary: Kathryn Bechtold

Corresponding Secretary: Aiko Ichimura

Bilingual Recording Secretary: Takako Dickinson

Supervisors: Margaret Ann Linn, Akiko Takagi



Honorary Advisor: Masako Soyu Miyahara

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Dear Members,

Have you ever been urged to write something about the Way of Tea? Did you discover something new while attending a tea affair? Have you experienced a eureka moment about a Zen phrase? We would like to invite you to write for Ocha no Wa about anything to do with the Way of Tea or any related cultural aspects of it. We are sorry that the space is limited only to a page or two including photos. Contact Katie Bechtold and Takako Dickinson at ochanowa@tankokaidc.org for more details or questions.

-- Editors