



**ROTARY INSTITUTE SPOUSE PROGRAM
FLORAL PASSION-LIVING ART OF FOUR
SEASONS**

*International Reception Room at 1F
Saturday, 18th. Oct. 2008*

Tina, executive officer of the spouse program, and her team are students at the “Chiyun Living & Deco House” floral art studio. After extensive communication and coordination processes between Tina and Master Chiyun, Master Chiyun agreed to offer his services for the Taipei Rotary International Seminar Spouse Program. October 17th evening, Master Chiyun and his studio team arrived at the International Reception room before the guests to transform a typical ballroom space into a trendy upscale environment with beautiful flowers, fruits, plants and flower vases. The result is a harmonic balance between flower and space.

Due to Betty's advertising at the GETS and advertising at the official conference website, the corridor outside the International Reception room was packed with huge crowd of spouses and Rotarians at 9am the following (October 18th) morning eagerly waiting to see Master

Chiyun's presentation. At 10am, the event started by PP Michelle, emcee for the event, introducing Master Chiyun in Chinese followed by convener Juliet addressing the welcome speech, and last but not the least, Young Ja, spouse of RI President, giving a short speech. 靜芬's daughter, Juliet, was on site to give interpretation.

Master Chiyun said, "learning the art of letting go and enjoying the moment of life shall enable ones to experience the beauty of creations." The source of his creativity comes from daily experience. He told everyone that floral art deco is not as hard as it seems. The floral concept can be found in almost every aspect of our daily lives. Our attitudes can be enriched through effective training. A simple one piece object can





deliver powerful and dynamic pictures if one can manage and pay special attention to the details in our lives.

There are no technical constraints to knowledge; Chiyun's floral art inspiration comes from vibrant and lively flower markets and fruit and vegetable markets, in addition, understanding the fruits and flowers for different time of the year. Every season has a different color representation. Spring can be purple and summer can be white. In the autumn, orange is a good representation of harvest season. And in winter, red can be use to give warmness to the cold weather. Fruits are also key elements of inspiration for Master Chiyun; they can stir up many different ways of thinking. Therefore, the source of inspiration is simple. It comes from recognizing, observing and learning the environment around us and our daily activities.



After a magnificent and live demonstration of flower art and arrangement by Master Chiyun, every participant was extremely moved and inspired by Master Chiyun's impeccable taste, overall energy and genuine friendliness. Good time goes by so fast. At around 11:50am, PP Michelle had to inform the crowd that the morning's event was near the end. Betty then came to the stage to give

the closing speech. Special thanks to the Flower Art Master, for working under limited budgets approved by the organizer, who still patiently discussed with us how to use seasonal rules to decorate afternoon tea party and flower art together. Thanks to CEO Tina and her team for assiduously helping us on arrangement and coordination; as well as to Juliet. Her fluent real-time English to Chinese translation has been the best endorsement for Master Chiyun. Lastly, the spouse program committee is thankful to PP Michelle for taking the emcee role for the event.



Between 12pm to 16:30pm is the commercial time. The "Art & Literature Hall Events" was held at the corridor right outside the International Reception Room. It featured a series of fantastic programs:

- 1) "Glamorous Eastern Beauty", which is sponsored and organized by Mei Yuan, fellow Rotarian at Rotary Club of 華麗 D3520, and her son Jiun. The exhibition gave everyone a chance to try on the traditional Chinese wedding gown and take picture with it.
- 2) "Cute Sketch" by three talented street sketch artists that sketched our honorable guests in a cartoonish way. These drawings were souvenirs for everyone to take home.
- 3) "Spouse Program Tea Ceremony" had guests back at the International Reception Room at 2:00pm where

24 spouses from D3500 performed four-season tea ceremony. Focusing on tasting and enjoying Taiwanese feature teas, and serving with classic tea utensils, floral art, traditional music and tea desserts, the experience brought the richness of eastern culture beauty.

Before the day event was over, convener Juliet and Young Ja, spouse of RI President, together presented Master Chiyun with a special gift from spouse program committee.







ROTARY INSTITUTE SPOUSE PROGRAM FOUR SEASON TEA CEREMONY

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The "four season tea ceremony" is organized and prepared by D3500, led by chair-person Betty, convener Lisa and tea lecturer Mrs. Hu along with twenty-four tea masters and six other service and photography crews. The ceremony began under the instruction of lecturer Mrs. Hu.

Many individuals had put immense efforts into this project to make this happen: Betty and Mrs. Hu's deliberate selection of wardrobe for the tea masters and search for the perfect dessert (red yeast rice and green bean cake); Mrs. Hu's persistent to the tea broth quality and tea serving body language; PP Flora's trip to Kao Hsiung to procure the bamboo woven dessert plate and ten types of preserved fruit; Lisa's seven endless days and nights of collecting information and laying out the tea cards and booklet; Justine and Sheena's heavy translation work; current President of Rotary Club of 經國 Color's leadership to employ additional shifts to deliver the book just in time for the

event. A lot of credit should be given to them.

The "four season tea ceremony" on October 18th finally arrived. Each tea serving tables were decorated by 1pm. There were a total of 24 tables decorated into the main themes of the event: spring, summer, autumn and winter. Each table featured a floral art work done by Master Chiyun. Tea masters wore a calm expression on their face, sat upright next to the tea serving table and dressed in a simple and conservative but classy dress. At 2:30pm, 苔媛 from Hsintsu Northeast Club slowly moving the *** on her hand. The flow and rhythm of the movement marked the beginning of the event. Guests then gradually made their way to their seats. Greeting them was the comforting steam from the fresh brewed tea. Between 2:55pm and 3:15pm, the melodious ambient sound from the musical instruments played by the *** band has created a soothing and uplifting atmosphere. Throughout the event service crews were dressed in pastel green uniform, attentively and politely serving tea desserts to each table. There were over 240 guests in the room. The mixture of soft chatter with the hissing sound from sipping the tea and muffled sound of chewing the desserts creates a poetic and heartwarming balance that was meant to stimulate in the two tea ceremonies. 美娥 from Rotary Club of Taoyuan summed up her experience as: "an new form

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of tea element has been created through mixture of rich cultural environment and modern artistic performance.” At a time when political turmoil has taken much of our time, the “four season tea festival” is like a peaceful oasis in an otherwise hectic and distressing world. This was a rare tasteful and tranquil moment for participating spouses during this Rotary District Seminar at the Grand Hotel. All participants were extremely pleased and impressed of the whole experience and they showed it on their face, from RI President DK Lee and spouse, Ayo (spouse of RI Director Jonathan Majiyagbe), PRIVP Gary and spouse, RID Jackson and spouse to many more. The tea ceremony came to an end at 4:30pm. At that moment, the smile on Betty’s face was radiant. She could finally release the tension that resulted from months of anticipation and get a

good night of sleep.

Tea ceremony was a success in the end. Our efforts received overwhelming response from the guests. None of the preparation seemed tiring in the end. Instead, the committee staffs have gained significant experience and insights that have enriched each one of their lives. The committee is really thankful to Juliet’s (spouse of RIDE Jackson) wonderful suggestions from time to time, Betty’s only supports and compliments as well as her great leeway to encourage creativity to the planning, lecturer Mrs. Hu’s support from the beginning, and lastly, the support and participation from the sisters at the tea art class. Our mastery of tea may still have a long road ahead of us, but we truly believe our next performance will be much better.



