

OPEN CIRCLE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE TOKYO UNION
CHURCH WOMEN'S SOCIETY

November 2008

November Program

Ballet Performance
“Yuki Onna (Snow Woman) “
Presented by Austrian Ballet Company
& #8211; Tokyo



**Tokyo Union
Church**

**Women's
Society**

5-7-7 Jingumae

Shibuya-ku,

Tokyo

Thursday, Nov.6 2008

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP FROM 9:30 A.M.

PROGRAM STARTS AT 10:30 A.M.

<http://www2.gol.com/users/tuc/tucws.html>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thankfulness

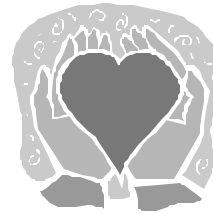
Greetings,

In the U.S. one day in November is set aside for Thanksgiving. For many people this is simply a time to gather together with friends and relatives to share a holiday meal. However, the very first Thanksgiving celebration was more than that. The Pilgrims were thankful not only to God, but also to the Native Americans for their friendship and help in a new land. As I think back on my time in Japan I also am thankful not only to God, but to the many friendly and helpful Japanese who have made my stay here more enjoyable. I am thankful too for the other expats that I have found who have given me advice and friendship. When we are so far away from our families, that friendship and support means even more.

We do not need to wait for a special day to be thankful. I suggest that you take some time and think about the blessings in your life. Once you start, you may be surprised at how much joy there is in your life.

With a thankful heart,

Bonnie Henry



BIBLE STUDIES

The Women's society is very excited about the bible study opportunities this year. We have two bible studies you may participate in.

The first one is on Tuesday mornings at TUC in the 2nd floor classroom. For more information on this study please contact Lauraleen Gaudio at 03-3589-3070 or

lauraleeng@aol.com

Our second bible study is on Wednesdays at the home of Debbie Hayman. This bible study will be studying a book called "Bad Girls of the Bible". We will be sharing in discussions from our homework. If you would like more information about this study, please contact Debbie Hayman at 03-3324-3610 or

debbiesan5@hotmail.com



MONTHLY PROGRAM

Ballet Performance
“Yuki Onna (Snow Woman) “
Presented by Austrian Ballet Company & #8211; Tokyo

The November meeting offers a beautiful ballet performance titled “Yuki Onna” which means “Snow Woman”. The story of the performance is based on a famous Japanese folk tale which has been handed down from generation to generation for many years. This is a lovely but sad and mysterious love story that attracted the people all the time. The performance includes the narration of the story so you will understand the flow of the piece and enjoy the story and dance even better. The hallmark of this Austrian Ballet Company (ABC)-Tokyo is its blending of innovative and traditional choreography into a distinct Euro-Asian-American style. Christian, director of the company and Rio, choreographer successfully created the dance with a sharp contrast of quiet Japanism and powerful modernism in this piece. They also take the lead parts in the performance and show wonderful dance techniques with all other dancers. They will give you big excitement and inspiration and will grasp your hearts. Please don't miss this special performance! Hope to see many of you at the program to enjoy their excellent piece of art, ballet together!!



MOPS

Tokyo Union Church now sponsors a new MOPS Chapter, *Mothers of Preschoolers*. If you are unfamiliar with MOPS, please feel free to review their website at www.mops.org. Our next meeting is November 20, from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon in the fellowship hall. Please join us for an inspirational time of fellowship, sharing, creative activities and of course eating. Childcare is provided at no cost. Moms, this is a great opportunity to focus on YOU for a change. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Pamela Murray at pamelas-murray@roadrunner.com. Be sure to mark your calendar for November 20 because “Mothering Matters!”



CLASSES

Did you know that you can sign up for a class up to 3 days before the start date? Also, if you have a visitor or friend who is not a member of TUCWS, they can register for a class for an additional ¥1000 fee per lesson?

November is a great time to do a little something for you. Why not learn a new skill and have some fun at the same time? Don't forget to look over the Fall 2008 Class Catalog, because even if a class has already begun, many teachers will accept students for a single lesson or even late starters, so if there's a class you're interested in taking, please ask about it. Upcoming short-term classes or classes suited to a single lesson, include:

November

Monday: Jingling Washi Egg Craft & Washi Box – 1 lesson, November 10

Monday: Tai-Chi for Health – 5 lessons, Nov 10 – Dec 15

Tuesday: Sumi-e & Screen Painting – 6 lessons, Nov 11 – Dec 16

Tuesday: Japanese Gardens Tour – 1 lesson, November 18

Tuesday: Kimekomi Dolls – 4 lessons, November 4-25

Wednesday: Jewelry Making with Silver Clay – 1 lesson, Nov 12

Wednesday: English (ESL) for Adults – 6 lessons, Nov 12 – Dec 17

Wednesday: English Conversation – 6 lessons, Nov 12 – Dec 17

Wednesday: Sachiko Stitching – 3 lessons, Nov 5, 12, 19

Friday: Fun with Furoshiki – 1 lesson, November 7

Friday: Beautiful Japanese Wrapping – 3 lessons, Nov 21, Dec 5 & 12

Ikebana – Sogetsu, Ohara, and Ichiyo (see catalog)



December

Wednesday: Japanese Onsen Tour – 1 lesson, December 3

Friday: Tea Ceremony & Origami in Kimono – 1 lesson, December 5

Please check out the Fall Classes Catalog for a complete description and listing of all the exciting classes we offer. Class registration is accepted at the Women's Society desk, Monday through Friday, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

HELP NEEDED! If anyone with Microsoft Word and Excel experience would be willing to join our Board to help with the classes, I would be incredibly appreciative! If you can help, please send an email to Nancy at tucws.classes@yahoo.com.

MONTHLY TOUR

Autumn Foliage Viewing at Mount Takao



Autumn leaves are like the cherry blossoms in the spring: both are rich in nature and captivate the hearts of the Japanese, and both are splendid to see. This month we will go to nearby Mount Takao (~ one hour from Shinjuku), where we will see beautiful Autumn leaves. Around mid-November at Mount Takao, deciduous trees like the maples *iroha momiji* (*Acer palmatum*) and *ou momiji* (*Acer amoenum*) decorate the landscape most elegantly.

We will begin our journey up the mountain by taking the cable car, passing through a tunnel of colors. Natural beauty for the nature lover. Exiting the cable car, we will walk along the trail and see the Monkey Park, Tako-sugi (octopus root cedars), Joshin Gate, Yaku-ou-in Temple, and continue on to see the breathtaking views at the summit. We will have lunch at a shop on the mountain. Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes.

Date: Thursday, November 20

Time: Meet at 9:25 a.m.

Meeting Place: Shinjuku Station, JR West Exit outside of the wickets.

Accessible via the JR Yamanote Line, and Marunouchi [M08] or Oedo [E01] Metro lines

Cost: Train is ¥370 one-way, ¥900 R/T for the cable car, ¥500 entrance for Monkey Park, plus lunch.

To confirm attendance, please e-mail us at tucws.tours@yahoo.com with your full name and mobile phone number. Any problems on the day of the tour, call our mobile phones: Hiromi Sato (080-5502-5230) or Nancy Schmatz (090-6954-6885).

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



Do you know how to crochet or knit? Would you be interested in making a prayer shawl? We are looking for women who would love to share their talents with others who are in need. It would be great to have a several shawls on hand so when we hear of a member or a friend who is going through a difficult time, we could send the shawl along with a prayer to them to brighten their day. If you are interested in getting involved in this new group, please contact Lauraleen Gaudio at 03-3589-3070 or by email at laura-leeng@aol.com

FALL FUNDRAISER WRAP-UP

Bake Sale	¥174,871
Ah-Sew	¥124,050
Raffle	¥69,560
Furniture	¥719,748
GRAND TOTAL	¥1,088,229

We are grateful to our generous raffle sponsors: Benetton, California Pizza Kitchen, Fujimamas, Fuji-Tori, Grand Hyatt – The Oak Door, Hard Rock Café, Kinokuniya Co., Ltd., Robert Kwon, McDonalds, National Azabu, Sheraton Grande Tokyo Bay Hotel, Reiko Takahashi, Tokyo American Club, Tony Romas, Wally Yonamine (Jane's) Pearls

As usual, no big event like the Asian Furniture Sale can be successful without the valuable assistance of many fantastic volunteers. This year we can especially thank Natsu Kikuchi for her help in organizing our placement of 2,700 flyers into newspapers prior to our event. Once again, Lauraleen Gaudio was instrumental in creating the flyers and other posters used to advertise the sale. Maria Smith seems like a human calculator to me every year. Thanks Maria for your shopping abilities, coordination of cash boxes, and general expertise with the financial end of things.

Of course, thanks to Hatsue-san, Helen Ott and all the Ah-Sew ladies for their hard work all year long. The crafts they make are beautiful and meticulously created. And we must also thank our Bake Sale Coordinator, Donna Lucovich, Nancy Schmatz and our hard working bakers of breads, brownies, cookies and other delicious treats. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped at the bake sale, the craft table, the raffle table and the cashier's table. All this hard work helps to make the Fall Fundraiser a success. We also offer our thanks to Pastor Barry and the hard working and ever helpful Higuchi-san for all their assistance to the Asian Furniture Sale.

UPCOMING SPRING FUNDRAISER – FLEA MARKET

It may seem far into the future, but the Spring Fundraiser, the Flea Market, will be here before we know it. Next year's Flea Market will be March 9th – March 13th. Right now I am requesting all our members to save any **VERY LARGE** bags for us to use at the flea market. With the holidays coming up, you may acquire some very large bags. I can also take clean Nissan or National Azabu bags to use at the Bag Sale. Please bring them with you to any monthly program. I can store them until we need them in March. Also, if you feel compelled to clean out your closets and find some very nice clothes, bags or jewelry we can sell in our high end boutique, I can store them until the sale (please, ONLY high end items). If you have any questions, please contact me at: pdmg@cox.net

MEMBERSHIP NEWS—IMPORTANT

It's not too late to sign up for 2008-2009 TUCWS Membership. Please visit the reception desk, Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Membership is Y4,000 per year for all members and free to members of Tokyo Union Church.

By renewing your membership you will stay on our membership list. You will receive our monthly newsletter the Open Circle and receive emails to learn about upcoming events. If you are not receiving email updates and you would like to, please drop us an email at **TUCWS @ hotmail.com** and we will get your name added.

If you have any questions about Membership, please contact Rose at the TUCWS Desk at 03-3400-0942

SHINBOKU-KAI

Wine Tasting & Vacation Sharing
Thursday, November 13, 2008



Do you have a favorite wine? Have you ever been on vacation? Then you're invited to come and share either or both at the November Shinboku-kai gathering.

We will have a Wine & Cheese party at Donna Lucovich's apartment in Izumi Gardens. Meeting place is outside the exit wickets at Roppongi Itchome subway station at 10 a.m. Please bring either a bottle of wine (or other soft drink if you don't like wine) or some cheese or crackers.

We will have a discussion of our favorite vacation destinations – either in Japan or abroad. Please RSVP to nancyschmatz@yahoo.com. Feel free to bring a friend, as well as your ideas for future gatherings for Shinboku-kai.

Any questions on that day, call Donna at 03-3505-8470.

SAVE THE DATE

The Christmas Holiday Spirit will soon be upon us. Start the Holiday Season Tokyo Style...A Christmas Luncheon



Catered by Kiwi Kitchen

Thursday Dec., 4 2008



Details for the luncheon to follow in the Dec Open Circle

Ah-Sew will be there with Handmade items for sale

BOARD MEMBERS 2008-2009

Co-Presidents	Bonnie Henry	047-326-3108	bonnieandfrank@yahoo.com
Vice President-Programs	Natsu Kikuchi	03-3913-0527	natsuup@aol.com
Secretary	Terry Kolodzieski	03-3584-3527	pdmg@cox.net
Treasurer	Maria Smith	090-9716-3178	mariaesmith@msn.com
CLASSES	Nancy Schmatz	03-5774-5851	nancyschmatz@yahoo.com
COMMUNICATIONS	OPEN		
Open Circle Editor	Debbie Hayman	03-3324-3610	debbiesan5@hotmail.com
OC Folding/Mailing	OPEN		
Press Releases	OPEN		
Ah Sew	Helen Ott	03-3597-6210	nelott@aol.com
Bake Sale	Donna Lucovich	03-3505-8470	donnalucovich@gmail.com
Fall Fundraiser	Terry Kolodzieski	03-3584-3527	pdmg@cox.net
Flea Market Committee	Terry Kolodzieski– Coordinator; Terri Lamb, Natsu Kikuchi, Nancy Schmatz, Mayumi Minagawa, Maria Smith, Kimiko Kajiyama		
MEMBERSHIP	Pam Cook	03-3589-2562	pkcooker@gmail.com
Receptionists	Rose Nagakura	03-3400-0942	rose_naga@hotmail.com
OUTREACH/SERVICE	OPEN		
Sekoryo Children's Home	Reiko Takahashi	04-7185-9589	<i>Send fax to phone number</i>
FELLOWSHIP	Terri Lamb	080-3414-6041	terrikentlamb@cox.net
Newcomer's Lunch Organ-	Donna Lucovich	03-3505-8470	donnalucovich@gmail.com
TUC Church	Rev. Barry Dawson	03-3400-0047	pastor@gol.com
Japanese Liaison	Hiroko Ikegami	03-3260-9056	mhikegami@aol.com
Past President	Lauraleen Gaudio	03-3589-3070	lauraleeng@aol.com

WE STILL NEED YOU...

Would you be willing to take on any of the following positions within TUCWS? Or offer your time and support, perhaps along with a friend? Please contact Bonnie Henry at 047-326-3108 or **bonnieandfrank@yahoo.com** to find out more.

Co-President Website Coordinator Communications Coordinator

Director of Outreach/Service Open Circle Folding & Printing Press Releases

SMALL INTEREST GROUPS

AH SEW—*Every Tuesday from 10:30 am to 3 pm - TUC Library*

This group of wonderful ladies work throughout the year on craft and sewing projects. The proceeds of these projects go to support our outreach charities. For more information, contact Hatsue Tashiro 04-2304-0221, or Helen Ott at 03-3597-6210.

WS QUILTERS—*Normally meets the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays -*

The Women's Society Quilters is a group of ladies who gather together twice a month to work on their individual projects. Some of us are quilters, some knitters, some work on handicrafts and some on mending! We have a lot of laughter and fun together. We meet at the home of Debbie Hayman. If you would like to join us, please give Debbie a call at 03-3324-3610 for more information.

JAPANESE CONVERSATION CLASS -*Every 2nd Thursday -*

This is a great way to learn the Japanese you need to get your hair cut, find clothes in 'gaijin' sizes, or practice making a restaurant reservation. Simple textbook Japanese becomes easier and more comfortable to speak. Patient Japanese members are your teachers. This friendly group meets in the TUC library and often goes out for coffee afterward to discuss things about Japan and its people. Join us, no matter how little Japanese you know. . For more information contact Hiromi at

Hiromibeat@yahoo.co.jp

THE LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch group is looking for venturesome women who like to try new restaurants or visit various eateries for good food, fun, and fellowship!! If you would like to join the fun, please contact Natsu to be added to the e-mail list! You'll be notified of the upcoming lunch adventure, and you can let her know if you'll be able to make it. Contact Natsu Kikuchi, 03-3913-0527 or **natsuup@aol.com**

SHINBOKU-KAI GROUP—*Meets on a Thursday*

Our name says it all ~ Shinboku-Kai means international friendship group and that's just what we are. The wonderful ladies of our group meet the 4th Thursday of each month to discuss a selected topic, learn a new dance, and to share together in friendship, laughter and afterwards lunch. For more information contact Nancy Schmatz at **nancyschmatz@yahoo.com** or Ikuko Ozawa at **ozawa@hs.catv.ne.jp**

TOKYO UNION CHURCH

Tokyo Union Church was founded in 1872(!) and is an ecumenical and international congregation of English-speaking Christians located in Tokyo, Japan.

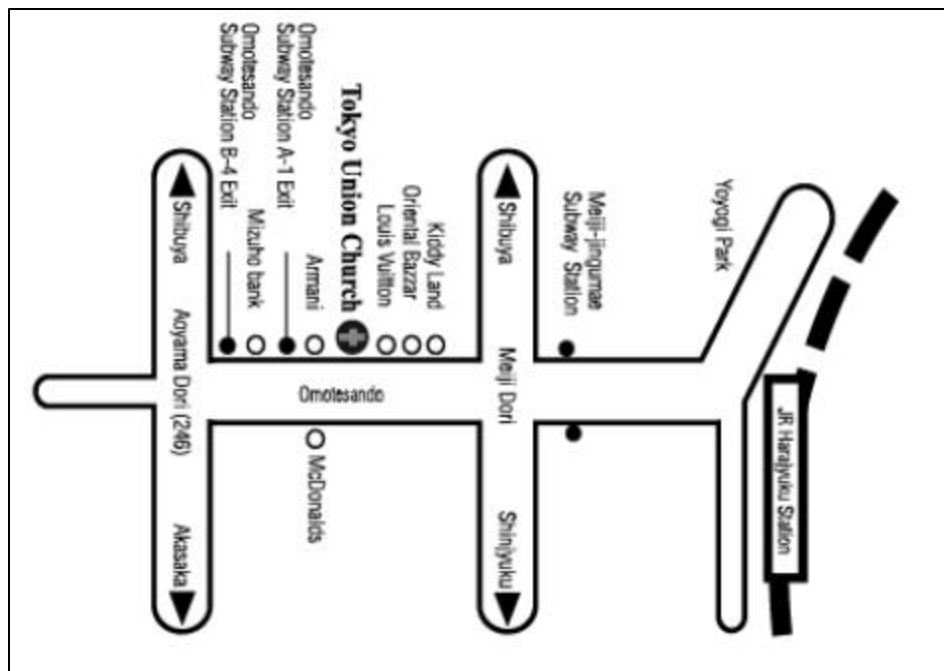
The word "union" is used to indicate that the membership is composed of Christians from many churches and nationalities who are united through a common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The members of Tokyo Union Church bring the richness of their own Christian heritage and experience into our worship, study, fellowship and service. Tokyo Union Church is independent and financially self-supporting; it is a member of the National Christian Council of Japan.

Worship Services are usually Sunday's at 8:30 and 11:00 am
Evening Praise Service is on the first Sunday of the month at 4:00 pm

TUCWS RECEPTION DESK

The desk is open Monday –Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



**YOU
CAN
FIND
US
HERE!!**

