Women’s World Day of Prayer

God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding
GUYANA

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP FROM 9:30 A.M.
PROGRAM STARTS AT 10:30 A.M.
**President’s Message**

Springtime is a great time to clean out those closets! Our flea market is quickly approaching, therefore you may want to start gathering those garments that don’t fit or you just don’t want anymore. To someone else, it could be the perfect item that they have been searching for to finish their wardrobe.

Don’t miss the March program which features a World Day of Prayer for the country of Guyana. People from all over the world will be gathering together for one day to pray for Guyana, in hopes that the people can overcome their many hardships.

Lastly, I wanted to mention a ministry that is very important to me. The Prayer Shawl Ministry is a ministry that was started in the U.S. many years ago and is now being recognized all over the world. My mother was very involved with the ministry in the U.S. and encouraged me to start one in Tokyo. I attend a weekly bible study group that also encouraged me to pursue this and teach others how to make the shawls. I began my first shawl shortly after I arrived with no idea as to who would receive the finished product. As we prayed for various people in our bible study group, it became clear to me that my shawl was supposed to go to a friend of Pat Johnson who lives in the U.S. and was battling ovarian cancer.

The shawls are meant to comfort people who are suffering because of an illness, who have lost a family member and/or may be battling daily struggles. We say a prayer over the shawls based upon the person who is receiving the shawl and then it is given to a friend or family member to deliver. I’ve taught a few people to crochet the shawls but welcome the opportunity to teach more people so that we can create a supply that is available when the need arises. We would also like to make lap blankets and baby blankets.

If you are interested in learning or already know how to knit or crochet, please don’t hesitate to contact me and I will give you the yarn and/or pattern to get started. So far, we have given away six prayer shawls and one baby blanket. It is a wonderful thing to be able to comfort someone who is suffering.

“Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am.” Philippians 4:13—The Message

From my heart,
Janet

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CHECK OUT OUR ARTICLE IN THE TOKYO METROPOLIS MAGAZINE
http://metropolis.co.jp/tokyo/720/globalvillage.asp

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR NEW PICTURES & EVENTS
http://www2.gol.com/users/tuc/tucws.html

APRIL’S OPEN CIRCLE DEADLINE IS MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2008.
All items to Editor Debbie Hayman - debbiesan5@hotmail.com or tel. 3324-3610
Our February Program, “The Traditional Japanese Gardens In and Around Tokyo”, presented by author Sumiko Enbutsu was, predictably, very well attended. Even longer-term Tokyo residents heard new and interesting tales about gardens they thought they already knew, just in time for the warmer weather (we hope!). Thank you also to Reiko Takahashi for her demonstration of Kimekomi Dolls. To see more of Reiko’s work, please see details of the March Tour on page 4 (or take her class).

The monthly program for March will be a World Day of Prayer service. Each year, a day of prayer is dedicated to one country that has struggled to gain their independence and this year our World Day of Prayer service will focus on the country of Guyana, South America. Men, women and young people in over 170 different countries will be united in prayer as they bring the needs of Guyana before the Lord. Our service gives us the opportunity to pray with and for the people of Guyana and to reflect on the theme “God’s Wisdom Provides New Understanding”.

Since 1813, the country was known as British Guiana but on becoming independent in 1966, it adopted the name Guyana. “Guyana” is an Amerindian word which means “Land of Many Waters”. It is home to the highest single-drop waterfall in the world, nearly five times as high as the Niagara Falls. Most of Guyana is lush tropical rainforest, but there are also breathtaking savannahs and majestic green mountains. To learn more, you can access the WDP Background Information on Guyana by visiting http://www.wdpscotland.org.uk/dload/WDP08-Background.pdf

Please join us as we acknowledge the Wisdom of God in the marvelous works of creation as the whole world unites in a day of prayer.

DEMONSTRATIONS - During coffee hour before the monthly program Natsu Kikuchi will be giving a demonstration on Beautiful Japanese Wrapping. Natsu will be showing us wonderful ways with traditional cloth (furoshiki) wrappings and washi paper wrappings. Be sure to check this out - you might want to take her class! These are held on Fridays from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. The next sessions will be held in April (see next month’s OC).

NEWCOMERS’ LUNCHEON

At the end of each monthly program, all newcomers will be invited to a Newcomers’ Luncheon. Lunch will be held at a nearby restaurant. In the event that you cannot make this month’s Luncheon, please feel free to attend next month. If you are new to Japan or to TUC, this is a wonderful opportunity to socialize and share information with fellow members. Please contact Donna Lucovich for more information at 03-3505-8470 or donnalucovich@gmail.com.
**March Tour**

**Elegant Games at a Traditional Old House and Reiko’s Doll Exhibition**

We are going to visit an old house called Aijima Art Village (04-7189-2864) in Abiko. It was built more than 150 years ago and was recently named a National Heritage Site. There you can experience a game called “Kaiawase” or shell-matching game. At the same time Reiko Takahashi will be holding one of her Kimekomi Doll exhibitions, and you will have the chance to see collections of Hina dolls and Boys’ Day dolls besides screens from Genji Monogatari (Tale of Genji). We will have lunch at a local restaurant afterwards. You can find out more information from Reiko on 04-7185-9589.

**Date**
Friday, March 21, 2008

**Meeting Place**
JR or Chiyoda Line Abiko Station, Platform 2

**Time**
Meet at 10:00 a.m. then change to Narita Line and go to Fusa Station. Train leaves at 10:30 — or you have to wait another 30 minutes for the next one.

**Cost**
¥ 2,500 (for game and lunch)

To confirm attendance please email tucws.tours@yahoo.com with your full name and contact mobile phone number OR call Hiromi Sato on 080-5502-5230 or Terri Lamb on 080-3414-6041.

**Bake Sale & Program Treats**

Hello, Ladies! It’s time for our Annual Flea Market and Bake Sale Fundraiser here at TUC! The 2008 Fundraiser will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 13th and 14th. To make the Sale a success, we need your help and support. We will accept donations of homemade and/or store-bought baked goods beginning on Thursday, March 12th. The committee is also looking for volunteers to help with packaging and staffing the sale on the 13th and 14th. Come join us, meet new people, and make new friends! Almost all proceeds from the sale will be used to fund the charitable activities of TUC through its Outreach programs. To volunteer your time, please contact Donna Lucovich at 03-3505-8470 or donnalucovich@gmail.com.

Secondly, the committee co-ordinates refreshments for the TUCWS Monthly Program that takes place on the first Thursday of every month. At the start of each Monthly Program light refreshments are provided. We need at least 3 volunteers/different desserts per meeting. If everyone signs up, participation will be required only once per year! To sign up for the month of your choice, please contact Donna Lucovich at 03-3505-8470 or donnalucovich@gmail.com.

Thanks so much, and hope your 2008 is off to a great start! Donna.
Flea Market - Volunteers Needed

TUCWS will hold our annual Flea Market Fundraiser on Friday, March 14 (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.) and Saturday, March 15 (10 a.m. – 12 p.m.). Almost all of the proceeds from this annual event are donated to charity (a small amount goes towards our monthly program budget). Tokyo Union Church Outreach supports over 40 charities around the world. When you participate in this event through donations, volunteering and purchasing, you are helping people here in Japan as well as in Southeast Asia, China and India. Here is how you can help:

BEFORE THE FLEA MARKET:

∞ Gather clean and gently used items such as clothing, toys, books, dishes, house wares, linens, towels, baby things, CD’s, DVDs/videos and anything else you think might sell at the TUCWS Flea Market. Sorry, we are unable to accept: business suits, large furniture, electrical items, soiled or broken items, or undergarments of any type.

∞ Tell friends, so they can gather their donations in time.

∞ Drop off items at TUC basement on Sunday, March 9 (2 p.m. – 4 p.m.) and Monday 10 through Wednesday 12 (9:30 a.m.— 4 p.m.). Remember, you can use “takyubin” or any of the wonderful local delivery services to save time.

∞ Bring paper bags (with handles) of any shape and size – especially designer bags. They can be brought to the March program or simply dropped off at the TUCWS Reception Desk. We will accept the overflow of your plastic bags, too!!

∞ Volunteer to help sort and organize. Helpers are needed Monday, March 10 through Thursday, March 13 (9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.) – even just an hour or two will greatly help. And, by the way... volunteers are allowed to shop after they sort – just think, you will have the best selection!

∞ Distribute Flea Market flyers (available from our Reception Desk) at your apartment complex, schools, among friends and anywhere else you can think of.

DURING THE FLEA MARKET EVENT:

∞ Volunteers are needed Monday, March 10 through Saturday, March 15 (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.) Whatever your interests, we have a place for you including Children’s Toys and Clothes, Books, Boutique, Men’s/Women’s Clothing, House Wares, Cashier, Coat and Bag Check, Assisting Customers and of course, the always popular Clean-up!

∞ Tell friends to come and shop at the Flea Market. The bargains are endless and the money we raise is priceless to a variety of charities.

HOW CAN YOU SIGN UP TO HELP:

Please contact Terry Kolodzieski (English speaker) on 03-3584-3527 or Mayumi Minagawa (Japanese speaker) on 03-3816-2613; OR sign up at the March program or via Rose at the TUCWS Reception Desk.
January 21, and will continue through the end of May. Don’t miss out on an opportunity to learn something new, have fun, and meet new friends. There are several new classes available, as well as those classes you’ve been meaning to take forever, so don’t hesitate to come on down!

You can register at the TUCWS Reception Desk with Rose from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Monday through Friday.

MARCH – Short-term or Single-Lesson Classes:

**Monday:**
- Tai Chi for Health – 5 classes, begins March 3
- East Meets West – Japanese Fusion Cooking, March 31 & April 7
- Washi Eggs & Washi Box for Easter, 1 class, March 17
- Japanese Literature – 5 classes, begins March 17
- Ikebana – Sogetsu – 4 classes, begins March 31

**Tuesday:**
- Ikebana – Ohara – 3 classes, begins March 18
- Sumie & Screen Painting, begins March 25
- Fitness Stretching, begins March 25

**Wednesday:**
- International Cooking for Fun – 1 class, March 19
- Sashiko Stitching – 3 classes, begins March 19
- ESL for Adults, begins March 19
- Ikebana – Ichiyo – 4 classes, begins March 26

**Friday:**
- Everyday Japanese – 5 classes, begins March 21
- Kanji Signs as Landmarks – 2 classes, Feb. 29 & March 7

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. There are many classes offered, including *ikebana* (Japanese flower arranging), cooking, language, crafts, and culture.

Please check out the 2008 Winter-Spring Classes Catalog for a complete description and listing of all the exciting classes we offer. [Visit http://www2.gol.com/users/tuc/ws/class.html](http://www2.gol.com/users/tuc/ws/class.html) and click on the link to the Class Schedule for full information. Remember that these classes are arranged exclusively for you, the members of our TUC Women’s Society. If you have an out-of-town visitor, you may bring them to a class as your guest, and they will just pay the class fee. However, local friends should be encouraged to join our Women’s Society to enjoy our many activities.

**Women’s Society Directory**

Members, have you collected your new Directory yet? If not, you can pick up your very own copy at the WS Reception Desk from Rose. It’s ready and waiting for you...!
TUCWS CLASSES (CONTINUED)

HAD ANY BRIGHT IDEAS LATELY?!?!... 

Please come and share your ideas at our meeting to discuss 
TUCWS classes at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 17

Are you interested in collaborating on class planning? Do you have ideas for new classes or suggestions for freshening up the current selection? Do you know someone who may be able to teach? Do you want to serve members better or simply have your impressions of classes heard? Then please join us for a meeting on class development. We’d like to come up with a plan on how to make our classes more attractive to our current members, and also how to reach out to the community to let more people know of our wonderful group and the interesting array of classes that we offer.

Class coordinators Nancy and Kay will be at TUC on Monday, March 17 from 10 a.m. to discuss the classes and how to improve our offerings. Any advice, suggestions or critique appreciated. No reservations necessary; just drop in. We will just have a friendly, casual discussion – no pressure, no commitments, just brain-storming! If you’re free, we can have lunch after the meeting. If you have any questions, please send an email to Nancy and Kay at tucws.classes@yahoo.com. Thank you!

SHINBOKU-KAI (International Friendship Group)

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 27, 2008

Let’s talk!

For our March gathering, Donna Lucovich has invited us to her apartment in Izumi Gardens for tea, refreshments, and plenty of lively discussions! Each member is invited to share a story about something funny or interesting that has happened to her.

Meeting Time 9:45 a.m.
Place Roppongi 1-chome Station (Namboku Line, N05), outside ticket wickets.

Please RSVP to Donna at donnalucovich@gmail.com. Any questions on that day, call Donna at 03-3505-8470.

TUCWS RECEPTION DESK

Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Phone 03-3400-0942, Fax 03-3400-1942. Our regular receptionist is Rose Nagakura.
Come and join the mahjong fun on Thursday afternoons at TUC. The basement will be open for members to come and play mahjong from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. every Thursday (except for Church or National holidays). This will be a fun time for members to come and enjoy fellowship together. Beginners are always welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Janet Hayes at 03-3588-7819 or the TUCWS Reception Desk. To be a regular player, we do ask that you join the Women’s Society (only ¥3,000), and then you will be on our mailing list for all our other wonderful events!
**SMALL INTEREST GROUPS**

Please check dates and times with the leader of a group before attending

**AH SEW**
Every Tuesday 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., TUC Library

This wonderful group of ladies works 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.

**WOMEN’S SOCIETY QUILTERS**
N ormally Meets 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! Whatever your sewing project is, you are welcome. We have a lot of laughter and fun together. We meet at the home of Debbie Hayman (who moved house last month!). If you would like to join us, please call Debbie on 03-3324-3610 for more information.

**JAPANESE CONVERSATION CLASS**
Every 2nd Thursday - Next Meeting March 13

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 for coffee afterwards. Join us, no matter how little Japanese you know. This is a great place to meet new friends from many cultures. For more information contact Hiromi Sato at Hiromibeat@yahoo.co.jp

**THE LUNCH BUNCH**
Last Wednesday of the month - Next Meeting Planned for March 26

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 - Next Meeting March 27 (see page 7)

Our name says it all ~Shinboku-Kai means “international friendship group”, and that’s just what we are. The wonderful ladies of our group usually meet the 4th Thursday of each month to discuss a selected topic, maybe to 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
MOPS (MOTHERS OF PRE-SCHOOLERS)

MOPS launched at TUC in January, with a great turnout; our first meeting was a good time of fun, sharing and encouragement. Thanks to everyone who came! This MOPS ministry welcomes mothers of all ages and from all walks of life, with kids of any age. It is a place where women can relax together without worrying about their kids, make friends, grow as individuals, be encouraged in Christ, develop God-given gifts, share and discuss, laugh and have fun, and take home a small treat. Small children have qualified childcare provided during this time so they can enjoy activities of their own.

MOPS meets monthly in the Fellowship Hall in the basement of the church. We welcome you to join us or visit us! Bring along a friend! Volunteers are also always welcome. Please email us at TUCWS.MOPS@gmail.com, or call 03-3953-4333. For more information on MOPS in general, please visit www.mops.org.

Each month will focus on a different aspect of being a wife and mother and how to make time for yourself. Next meeting dates: 18 March, 24 April, 29 May from 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon. We hope to see you there! Grace Yoshida

HELP WANTED!!

WEBSITE COORDINATOR

Do you have experience in website design and maintenance? If so, we need you! Our website coordinator, Karen Benedict, has moved back to the U.S. and has graciously continued her services in maintaining and updating the TUCWS website until a replacement can be found. We need someone who has previous website experience including HTML. Karen is currently using Dreamweaver and also has an FTP program that uploads the pages to the web server. Also needed is a program that converts files to .pdf files. Right now, it takes her about one hour a month to do the updates.

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Our Communications Coordinator, Kimiko Kajiyama, is moving on to new things, and we will need a new coordinator beginning in May. If you like to make flyers and posters, and want to assist with the website material, advertising, and other WS communication efforts, please consider joining the camaraderie of our Board and accepting this important position.

Please contact Janet Hayes at jlhayes@msn.com, if you would be willing to help us with either of these important tasks.
Sekoryo Children’s Home Ministry - 2008 Family Fun Day

Meet: Sanshinomori Park - Outside Higashi-Koenji Station

The annual Sekoryo Family Fun Day will be held on Saturday, April 19.
We are expecting more than 30 children between the ages of 7 and 18 to participate in this event, which has proven year after year to be the most popular program with the Sekoryo children. We hope to assign 2 children to each host, therefore we need at least 15 host volunteers plus helpers.

This is an opportunity for you to make a difference in the lives of less fortunate children. Spend the day with them doing fun activities - maybe a picnic in the park, an aquarium or zoo visit, bowling, cooking lunch or baking cookies, playing cards or board games, sightseeing at Tokyo Tower, Roppongi Hills, etc. Show them that they are “special,” and that you care enough to take time to be with them. If you can, involve your whole family.

If you are currently a Birthday Sponsor (*) of a child 7 years old or above, please let us know if you would like your child to be assigned to you. We will do our best to accommodate you. We will also try to match any non-sponsor hosts with the age etc of child they request. Please understand, however, that we rely on your goodwill and a certain amount of flexibility to ensure that the day is a success for all the children taking part.

We need your help to make this year’s event a success

Please sign up now as one of the following:

♥ Home Host
   Host 2 or 3 children from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

♥ Co-Host
   Provide support to the Home Host.

♥ Japanese Interpreter
   Act as language intermediary between Hosts and Sekoryo children where needed.

♥ Transportation Host
   Where the Host is unable to pick up the children at the meeting place, the Transportation Host will escort them to the Host’s home and will also collect and drop off the children at the meeting place after the event.

The sign-up form is on the back page of this Open Circle. Sign-up by fax or email or leave your completed sign-up form with our TUCWS receptionist, Rose. Please contact the Sekoryo Coordinators, Reiko Takahashi at 04-7185-9589 (phone & fax) or Pia Keller at 03-3465-6080 / 090-6563-2003 or email kellercentral@aol.com. Or send in the form on the church fax at 03-3400-1942 if you need any further information.

(*) We are always looking for additional Birthday Sponsors for the Sekoryo Home Children’s Orphanage. For ¥4,000 you can make sure that a child receives a card and gift on their birthday. What a wonderful way to make a child happy! Call Reiko or Pia on the numbers above, Rose at the TUCWS desk or sign up at the next monthly meeting.
Sunday, March 2 Youth Mission Trip to Philippines Fundraising Luncheon
Sunday, March 2 Evening Praise Service at 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 8 Men's Ministry Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday, March 8 Homeless Dinner at 2:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 16 Passion/Palm Sunday
Sunday, March 16 New Members Class at 12:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 20 Maundy Thursday Service at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, March 21 Good Friday Service at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 23 Easter Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. worship services
Sunday, March 23 Youth Mission Trip to Philippines with Habitat for Humanity (March 23-30)
Sunday, March 30 TUC Arts Ministry Gospel Concert at 12:30 p.m.

Sign-up by fax, email or leave completed sign-up form with our TUCWS receptionist. Questions? Please contact Sekoryo Coordinators Reiko Takahashi on 04-7185-9589 (phone and fax) or Pia Keller at 03-3465-6080 or 090-6563-2003 or email kellercentral@aol.com.

I wish to sign up as:

_______________ Home Host         _______________ Co-Host

_______________ Japanese Interpreter _______________ Transportation Host

Name ____________________________________________________________

Address _________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

Telephone/Fax _______________ Email address ___________________________

TO FAX: 04-7185-9589 or TUC fax 03-3400-1942