

# OPEN CIRCLE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE TOKYO UNION  
CHURCH WOMEN'S SOCIETY

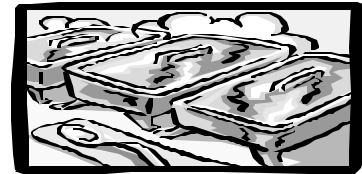
**Dec. / Jan. 2008**

## **December Program**

### **2008 Christmas Luncheon Thursday, December 4**

Musical program begins at 10:00 a.m. in the  
Sanctuary

Followed by Lunch at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall



The Music will be English Christmas Carols  
performed by The Polyhymnia Singers  
Conducted by Takuo Shimura

The Lunch will be catered by Kiwi Kitchens

Tickets: ¥2500

Final Date of Ticket Sale:

2 p.m., Friday, November 28  
at the TUCWS Reception Desk

**Tokyo Union  
Church**

**Women's  
Society**

**5-7-7 Jingumae**

**Shibuya-ku,**

**Tokyo**

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Holidays

I love the Christmas season with its special foods, decorations, gifts, songs and family traditions. Probably my favorite family tradition is putting up a nativity scene one piece at a time throughout December. The stable is first, followed by the shepherds and animals. Finally on Christmas Eve the baby Jesus is placed in the manger. Our children could never decide who had the honor of placing Jesus in the manger so that became Santa Claus' job. I still put out their childhood set although some of the animals are missing ears due to the children's handling of them. That set has now been joined by many others from different parts of the world. I enjoy the reminder not only of the very first Christmas, but of many different people each celebrating the holiday in their own ways. As you celebrate the holidays this year I wish you all joy and peace.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Bonnie Henry

Co-President



## 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](mailto:lauraleeng@aol.com)**

Our second bible study is on Wednesdays at the home of Debbie Hayman. If you would like more information about this study, please contact Debbie Hayman at 03-3324-3610

or

**[debbiesan5@hotmail.com](mailto:debbiesan5@hotmail.com)**



# MONTHLY PROGRAM

## 2008 Christmas Luncheon **Thursday, December 4**

You are invited to join us for a Christmas Program at TUC. We will begin in the Sanctuary where the Polyhymnia Singers will sing Christmas Carols for us. They have been singing together since 1989. Their conductor is Takuo Shimura. We will then move down to the fellowship hall for a delicious holiday meal catered by Kiwi Kitchen.

### Menu

Roast Turkey with Apple & Sage stuffing  
Gravy & Cranberry Sauce  
Fresh Baked Buns  
Creamy Mashed Potatoes  
Seasonal Roasted Vegetables  
Classic Caesar Salad with Cherry Tomatoes  
Very Veggie Quiche

*Please bring a dessert to share!*

Musical program begins at 10:00

Lunch at 11:30

Tickets: ¥2500

**Final Date of Ticket Sale:**  
**2 p.m., Friday, November 28**

# MOPS - MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS

December 18, 2008 and January 29, 2009

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 [pamelasmurray@roadrunner.com](mailto:pamelasmurray@roadrunner.com). Please feel free to check out the website for MOPS at [www.mops.org](http://www.mops.org).



# CLASSES

2008 is soon coming to a close, but there are still a few classes available for you! 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? Upcoming short-term classes or classes suited to a single lesson, include:

## **December**

Wednesday: Japanese Onsen Tour (#4-3) – 1 lesson, December 3

Friday: Tea Ceremony & Origami in Kimono (#4-4) – 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.



## **2009 Winter~Spring Classes**

Watch for your catalog in the mail soon.

Registration begins at the January Program: Thursday, January 15

TUCWS Class registration begins from 9:00 through 10:30 a.m. before the monthly program in January. Just come down to Fellowship Hall for coffee and refreshments, and be the first to sign up for the classes of your choice. After the program, registration will continue at the TUCWS Desk from noon until 2 p.m. Beginning Friday, January 16, you may register at the TUCWS Desk from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The **2009 Winter~Spring Classes** will begin Monday, January 26, and continue through the end of May. Not sure if a class is for you? Many classes offer a *Trial Lesson* payment for the first day of a class. Try it out, and if you like it, you just pay the difference for the remainder of the session. Travel plans interfere with taking a complete session? Check out the classes that offer the *Single Lesson* payment option.

To register for classes, you must be a 2008-2009 member of the TUCWS. We are a volunteer, non-profit organization, and depend upon your contributions so that we may continue to offer these programs.

*Due to lack of space and safety concerns,  
TODDLERS AND CHILDREN IN STROLLERS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE REGISTRATION ROOM.*

**TEACHERS NEEDED:** Do you or someone you know have a skill to share with our Women's Society members or their children? Please send resume to **tucws.classes@yahoo.com** for any subject you may be interested in teaching. Thank you.

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

## MONTHLY TOUR – JANUARY



### “Up Close and Personal” with Sumo

One of our most popular tours is to see the Sumo wrestlers practice at a Sumo Stable, and is a “must see” if you have not attended one yet. We’ll visit the Musashigawa Sumo Stable in the early morning and watch their ritual of daily exercise and practice matches. You’ll realize just how big these sumo wrestlers are, and the power and agility they possess. Cameras are allowed, but please no flash. We are expected to be quiet and respectful during their practice. If you would like to, it is customary to bring a small gift, such as home-made banana bread or cake, to give to the wrestlers.

**Date:** Wednesday, January 21, 2009

(Date may change if required by Stable manager)

**Meeting Time:** Meet at 8:10 a.m. sharp

**Meeting Place:** Uguisudani Station, North Exit (one stop north of Ueno on the JR Yamanote Line)

Check [www.hyperdia.com](http://www.hyperdia.com) to find your best travel route.

**Cost:** ¥500 donation, plus cost of transportation and optional lunch

To confirm attendance, please e-mail us at [tucws.tours@yahoo.com](mailto:tucws.tours@yahoo.com) with your full name and mobile phone number. Any problems on the day of the tour, call Hiromi Sato (cell phone 080-5502-5230).

## 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](mailto:laura-leeng@aol.com)

# JANUARY - Monthly Program

## IKEBANA Demonstration (Japanese Flower Arrangement)

Presented by **Akihiko Kasuya**,  
**Head Master** of Ichiyo School of Ikebana

**Thursday, January 15th, 2008**

TUC Women's Society opens the curtain of the New Year 2009 with a beautiful and gorgeous demonstration of IKEBANA flower art. As well known, Ikebana is representing one Japanese traditional culture and its aesthetics that was born and developed in the long history of Japan to respect and enjoy nature and its beauty.

Akihiko Kasuya is a head master of Ichiyo School of Ikebana and is also an honorable teacher of the flower arrangement class in Women's Society.

In the program, he will show several basic forms of flower arrangement and also his exquisite skill, dynamic and artistic imagination in a huge magnificent flower arrangement. You will learn how to enjoy Japanese IKEBANA more deeply and appreciate its marvelous technique and impressive sense of art for creation even better.

*Please note that 2009 January Program is on the 3rd Thursday 15th because of holiday time.*

Let's start WS's New Year together at TUC Sanctuary with beautiful flowers and lovely friends!



# SHINBOKU-KAI (INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP GROUP)

**December Meeting: Tuesday, December 9, 2008**

## *Christmas Gift-Exchange!*

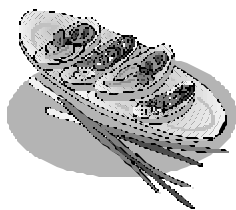


Ho-ho-ho! For December's gathering, we will have a Christmas party at the home of Terry Kolodjiewski at Homat Viscount in Akasaka. Everyone is asked to bring a wrapped gift worth between ¥1000 and ¥1500, and we will play a fun gift-exchange game. Please also bring a small food item to share for lunch during the party.

Please RSVP to Terry at **pdmg@cox.net**. Meeting place is at Exit 13 of Tameike-Sanno subway station at 11 a.m., or directly to her apartment building if you know the way. Access is by the Namboku [N06], Ginza [G06], Marunouchi [M14] or Chiyoda [C07] lines. Any questions on that day, call Terry at 03-3584-3527.

\* \* \* \* \*

**January Meeting: Thursday, January 29, 2009**



## *Appetizers, Anyone?*

January's Shinboku-kai gathering will be an appetizer-tasting and recipe sharing at the home of our fellow member, Deb Wenig, in Izumi Gardens. Please bring a small dish of your favorite appetizer, dip, spread, hors d'ouvres, etc., that is representative of your home region, state, or country, as well as the recipe or name of place purchased

Please RSVP to Deb at **dwenig58@hotmail.com**. Feel free to bring a friend, as well as your ideas for future gatherings for Shinboku-kai.

Meeting place is outside the exit wickets at Roppongi Itchome subway station [Namboku Line N-05] at 10 a.m., or at Izumi Gardens. Any questions on that day, call Deb at 03-3589-5684.



# TUC Women's Society Calendar

## Upcoming Calendar of Events

### December

- 3 – Wed. Japanese Onsen Tour
- 3 – Wed. 4 p.m., set-up for Christmas Luncheon
- 4 – Thur. 10 a.m., Christmas Program & Luncheon
- 4 – Thur. 2 p.m., open Board Meeting – all invited
- 5 – Fri. Tea Ceremony & Origami in Kimono
- 9 – Tues. 11 a.m., Shinboku-kai gathering
- 11 – Thur. 1:30 p.m., Japanese Conversation group

### January

- 15 – Thur. 9 a.m., Winter-Spring Classes Registration
- 15 – Thur. 10:30 a.m., Monthly Program:  
Ichiyo Ikebana flower demonstration
- 21 – Wed. 8:10 a.m., Tour to Sumo Practice Stable
- 22 – Thur. 10 a.m., open Board Meeting
- 22 – Thur. 1:30 p.m., Japanese Conversation group
- 26 – Mon. Winter-Spring Classes begin
- 28 – Wed. Lunch Bunch
- 29 – Thur. 10 am., Shinboku-kai gathering

## **WE NEED YOU...PLEASE VOLUNTEER!**

The TUC Women's Society is an organization made up of volunteers. WE NEED YOUR HELP!! In order for us to continue doing all the wonderful things we do, we need more people to lend a hand. Please consider taking on one of the positions listed below. If you don't want to do it alone, ask a friend to join you. If you want to see what our Board is all about, come to our meeting and see. We will be meeting on Thursday, Dec. 4 at 2 pm. All are welcome. Or for more information contact Bonne Henry at 047-326-3108 or **bonnieandfrank@yahoo.com**.

Co-President      Website Coordinator      Communications Coordinator

Director of Outreach/Service      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

## ***Celebrating Advent and Christmas at Tokyo Union Church***

Saturday, November 29	Advent Celebration Gathering (3 pm)
Sunday, November 30	First Sunday in Advent (8:30 & 11 am worship)
Thursday, December 4	Women's Society Christmas Luncheon
Saturday, December 6	Alpha Celebration Dinner (6 pm)
Sunday, December 7	Second Sunday in Advent (8:30 & 11 am worship) Featuring the Tokyo Union Church Choir singing J. S. Bach's "Christmas Cantata #142" Evening Praise Service (4 pm) Kaori Murakami & Crystal Beads Choir Christmas Caroling (after EPS)
Thursday, December 11	ELC Children Christmas Program (9 am)
Saturday, December 13	Dinner for our Homeless Neighbors - Featuring Christmas Musical by TUC children
Sunday, December 14	Third Sunday in Advent (8:30 & 11 am worship) Christmas Musical Program (10:00 am) - Featuring TUC Children Bott Memorial Home Bell Choir (11 am worship) Fellowship Luncheon with Bott Children (12:30 pm) Christmas Caroling (after Luncheon)
Sunday, December 21	Fourth Sunday in Advent (8:30 & 11 am Worship) TUC Children Christmas Celebration (9:45 am) Christmas Caroling on Omote-sando
Monday, December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services (4 pm (special focus for children) , 7 pm & 9 pm)
Tuesday, December 25	Christmas Day Worship Service (11 am)
Sunday, December 30	Worship Service (11 am Only)
Thursday, January 1	New Year's Day Breakfast for Homeless (10 am)