

# OPEN CIRCLE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF TOKYO UNION CHURCH

MAY 2008

**WOMEN'S SOCIETY  
of Tokyo Union Church**

**Hawaiian Concert  
Ukulele and Hula  
Presented by Ku'ulei Mamo  
Thursday, May 8th**



*"As You Wish"*

**Tokyo Union  
Church  
Women's Society  
5-7-7 Jingumae  
Shibuya-ku,  
Tokyo**

**03-3400-0942  
Monday to Friday**



**COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP FROM 9:30 A.M.  
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL  
PROGRAM STARTS AT 10:30 A.M.  
IN THE SANCTUARY**

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

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

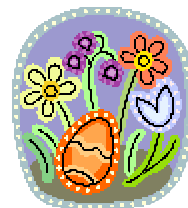
With the change of the seasons, it is a time that change happens within the Women's Society. We always have a few people who leave, but in return, we gain new members who find their way to TUC. During this transition, we always lose a few board members who have been a valuable part of our organization. We are sad to see Kimiko Kajiyama leave her position as Communications Chair on the board. Kimiko has been a valued member of our organization for many years. We will miss her smiling face and the many ways in which she touched our hearts. We are seeking new faces to fill our empty board positions. Please take the time to reflect and pray about whether you are called to fill one of these roles.

The Spring Brunch is planned for June 5th. The WS Board has decided to try something different for this end of year event. One of our board members, Terri Lamb, had the wonderful idea of having a Jazz Brunch. Unfortunately, Terri had to travel back to the U.S. for health reasons, but we have decided to carry on in her honor and proceed with the Jazz theme. Please join us at this fun event as our year draws to a close for the summer. Terri, if your reading this: We miss you and will set you a place of honor with the "honorary Terri doll".

As in the past, we will still host the summer coffees with programs. Watch for dates and program details in the Open Circle.

"Don't lose a minute in building on what you've been given, complementing your basic faith with good character, spiritual understanding, alert discipline, passionate patience, reverent wonder, warm friendliness, and generous love, each dimension fitting into and developing the others." 2 Peter 1:5-7 The Message

From My Heart,  
Janet



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR NEW PICTURES & EVENTS

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

JUNE'S OPEN CIRCLE DEADLINE IS MONDAY, June 6, 2008.

All items to Editor Debbie Hayman - [debbiesan5@hotmail.com](mailto:debbiesan5@hotmail.com) or tel. 3324-3610

TUCWS RECEPTION DESK

Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Phone 03-3400-0942, Fax 03-3400-1942

# MAY PROGRAM



Hawaiian Concert  
-Ukulele and Hula—  
Presented by Ku'ulei Mamo  
**THURSDAY, MAY 8**



Aloha!

At the early summer of May, TUCWS presents you a wonderful performance of Ukulele and Hula to bring you a lovely Hawaiian breeze and peaceful relaxation.

The ukulele player, Ku'lei Mamo was born in Hawaii as Sansei and started to play ukulele at the age of 3 learning from her father who was a ukulele teacher. She studied percussion, drums as well as ukulele and was playing with a wide variety of groups and styles including Hawaiian, Rock, Soul, Pop, Rhythm and Blues, Country-Western, Latin and Jazz etc.

She got a degree of Music Education at University of Hawaii, El Camino College in California and Roosevelt University in Chicago, Illinois. She has been actively working as a studio musician and a music and ukulele teacher in Hawaii, US and also in Japan.

Ku'ulei will share her rich wisdom of those local performances with the culture and background to give us more fun and insight about Hawaiian art. This will be a fantastic concert especially with her beautiful personality and strong love to the music.

Let's enjoy romantic Hawaiian songs and fascinating Hula performance together!  
Please remember that we have May program on the 2nd Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> on account of Golden Week.

I look forward to seeing you all then!!

Natsu Kikuchi

## **INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

During our May Program, we will be installing the 2008-2009 Women's Society Board. These volunteer board members give us their time and service. Please take a moment to say thank you to them. They help keep all of our programs, classes and tours running smoothly.

We still have some spaces available on the board and could use your help. Please take a look at the list of open positions on page 10, and if you are interested in helping in any of them, please contact Janet Hayes, President .

# MAYTOUR



WANT TO GET OUT OF THE CITY AND GO BAMBOO DIGGING?

Now is your chance to actually eat the fruits of your labor.

On Wednesday, May 14, we will visit Reiko Takahashi's house out in the suburbs to harvest our own bamboo shoots. Put on your jeans and old shoes, as we will be walking to a neighboring farm, across the fields, and into the bamboo forest to dig out young bamboo shoots. Don't be fooled; these young sprouts don't come out easy, so be ready to dig! It is a fun experience you won't get in most tours offered in Japan, so don't miss it. Reiko is also a wonderful Japanese cooking teacher and hostess. After our harvesting, we will return to her house, where she and her students will prepare a delightful meal for us using the freshly harvested shoots.

**Date:** Wednesday, May 14  
**Meeting Place:** Kita-senju Station (Chiyoda Line C18), front of platform  
**Meeting Time:** 9:30 a.m.  
**Cost:** ¥2000 including lunch, harvest, and work gloves.  
**Respond to:** Reiko Takahashi, 04-7185-9589  
or email to [tucws.tours@yahoo.com](mailto:tucws.tours@yahoo.com)



Mark your calendars now. You won't want to miss this special opportunity!

# 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. If you have any questions, please contact Janet Hayes at 03-3588-7819 or [jlhayes@msn.com](mailto:jlhayes@msn.com)

# SAVE THE DATE! SUMMER COFFEE'S

Will you be in Tokyo this summer? If you will be, you won't want to miss the Summer Coffee's held on Thursdays throughout the summer at TUC. Mark your calendars now.

**June 19, July 17, Aug 7**

These are usually very well attended and a great place to meet new people and learn something about Japanese traditions.

# JAZZ LUNCH



## *Jazz Brunch*

*Thursday, June 5, 2008*



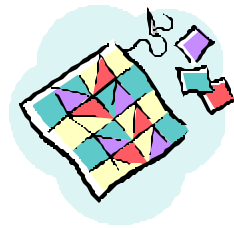
*Get your fancy hats ready, ladies!*

It's time to don your favorite chapeau (hat) and attend the TUC Women's Society *Jazz Brunch* on Thursday, June 5, in Fellowship Hall. Come and share a special time of friendship, good food, and cool jazz music! The brunch will begin at 10:30 a.m.

Catering will be provided by Kiwi Kitchen with a delicious menu. We are also seeking volunteers to bring desserts for all to share. The cost will be ¥2500, and tickets will go on sale at the May program.

Wear your hats ladies and lets see whose is the most unique.

# CALENDAR - WOMEN'S SOCIETY



## **MAY**

- Wed., 7th Quilting Group
- Thurs., 8th WS Program  
Installation of Officers  
Japanese Conversation  
Mah Jong
- Wed., 14th Bamboo Digging tour
- Thurs., 15th Mah Jong
- Wed., 21st Quilt Group
- Thurs., 22nd Shinboku-kai  
Mah Jong
- Sun., 25th TUC Special Music
- Wed., 28th Lunch Bunch
- Fri., 30th Last Day of WS Classes

## **June**

- Thurs., 5th Jazz Brunch
- Thurs., 9th Summer Coffee

## **July**

- Thurs., 7th Summer Coffee

## **Aug**

- Thurs., 7th Summer Coffee

# CLASSES

## TUCWS Membership Fee Change

To welcome all newcomers to TUCWS, **new members** who join in April or May will pay only ¥1000 membership fee, and no additional class registration fee.

## 2008 Spring Classes Still Available

The following classes are still available for your enjoyment. Why not sign up today for one of these interesting and fun activities?

MON: 7-2 Tai Chi for Health – 2 lessons left, May 12 & 19  
4-5 Japanese Literature – 1 lesson left, May 12  
6-3 Ikebana – Sogetsu – through May 26

TUE: 5-2 Sumie & Screen Painting – through May 27  
7-1 Fitness Stretching – through May 27  
6-2 Ikebana – Ohara – 3 lessons, May 13-27

WED: 1-7 Kindermusik “Village” – through May 28  
NEW English Conversation – 1 lesson left, May 14  
8-1 ESL for Adults – through May 14  
6-1 Ikebana – Ichiyo – through May 28

FRI: 3-1 Beautiful Japanese Wrapping – 3 lessons,  
May 16, 23 & 30

8-2 Everyday Japanese, Session 3 (Beg. & Interm.) – 4 lessons, May 9-30



### NEW CLASS: ENGLISH CONVERSATION

Do you want to increase your English conversation ability? This casual class will help increase your confidence in speaking the English language through reading and conversing in a relaxed environment. A certified ESL teacher will use newspaper clippings, songs, presentations and situations (like going to a restaurant/bank/movie hall, shopping in department stores, taking a city tour, interviewing a movie star etc) to create an atmosphere of fun and enjoyment. So, just bring yourself and your sense of humor to enjoy this class!

*Day:* Wednesday, May 14 *Min- Max:* 2-12 students

*Teacher:* Mrs. Suparna Bose

*Time:* 10:30 - 11:30

*Location:* Library

*Fee:* Single-lesson payment only: ¥1200

We're now planning the Fall 2008 Classes!

If you have any ideas for new classes, or comments on existing ones, please send Nancy and Kay a note at [tucws.classes@yahoo.com](mailto:tucws.classes@yahoo.com). Thank you!

# MEMBERSHIP FEE CHANGES

NON-MEMBERS: Effective immediately, **non-TUCWS** members may sign-up for a class for a fee of ¥1000 per lesson. However, TUCWS membership dues for those joining in April or May are now only ¥1000, so anyone taking a class is welcome to join TUCWS for ¥1000 and enjoy the benefits of membership throughout the summer. There will be no additional class registration fee added.

# PROGRAM TREATS

The TUCWS Monthly Program takes place usually 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 Terry Kolodzieski at 03-3584-3527 or pdmg@cox.net

Thanks so much, Terry



# SHINBOKU-KAI (International Friendship Group)

**Next Meeting: Thursday, May 22, 2008**

## *It's Hula Time !*

Aloha! We are rescheduling our April meeting in May, when a fellow member will teach us how to do a hula dance. Bring your lei and get ready to move to the gentle Hawaiian breezes, and learn to tell a story with your hands.

Afterwards, we may learn a song to sing at the June luncheon.



**Meeting Time:** 10:00 a.m.

**Meeting Place:** Tokyo Union Church – Fellowship Hall

Please RSVP to [nancyschmatz@yahoo.com](mailto:nancyschmatz@yahoo.com) or Ikuko Ozawa at [ozawa@hs.catv.ne.jp](mailto:ozawa@hs.catv.ne.jp).

Any questions on that day, call the TUCWS Reception Desk at 03-3400-0942.

# BOARD MEMBERS 2008-2009

President	Janet Hayes(Acting)	03-3588-7819	jhayes@msn.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
<b>CLASSES Co-Directors</b>	Nancy Schmatz Kay Hotta	03-5774-5851 090 3048 4074	nancyschmatz@yahoo.com kayhotta@gmail.com
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OC Folding/Mailing	<b>OPEN</b>		
Press Releases	<b>OPEN</b>		
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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		
<b>MEMBERSHIP SERVICES</b>	Pam Cook Yuriko Oshima	03-3589-2562 03-3400-0942	pkcooker@gmail.com yrrehc39258@jcom.home.ne.jp
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<b>OUTREACH/SERVICE</b>	<b>OPEN</b>		
Sekoryo Children's Home Co-Directors	Reiko Takahashi Pia Keller	04-7185-9589 03-3465-6080	<i>Send fax to phone number</i> kellercentral@aol.com
<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>	Terri Lamb	080-3414-6041	terrikentlamb@cox.net
Newcomer's Lunch Organizer	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



## Mahjong for **FUN** on Thursdays

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 Debbie Hayman at 03-3324-3610 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.

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## **WOMEN'S SOCIETY QUILTERS**

*Normally 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. If you would like to join us, please call Debbie at 03-3324-3610 for more information.

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## **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 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](mailto:Hiromibeat@yahoo.co.jp)

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## **THE LUNCH BUNCH**

*Last Wednesday of the month*

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](mailto:natsuup@aol.com)

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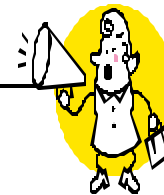
## **SHINBOKU-KAI GROUP**

*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 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](mailto:nancyschmatz@yahoo.com) or Ikuko Ozawa at [ozawa@hs.catv.ne.jp](mailto:ozawa@hs.catv.ne.jp)



# **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.

## **SUMMER COFFEE COORDINATOR**

Will you be here during the months of June, July and August? Are there some programs you would like to see the Women's Society have? If you answered Yes to any of the questions above, we need your help. We are looking for someone to coordinate the programs during the summer. Don't worry, we have helpers, and some ideas, but we need someone to coordinate the programs.

## **OPEN CIRCLE FOLDING/MAILING COORDINATOR**

We are in need of someone to copy and organize the folding and mailing of the OC. There is already a wonderful team of volunteers who help each month, all you would need to do is keep it organized and running. This is a job that takes a few hours each month.

## **PRESS RELEASES**

We are in need of someone to help us get the word out about all the wonderful events we have going on at the Women's Society of TUC. We are looking for someone to send out press releases to the local newspapers and community magazines. This takes a few hours a month.

The Women's Society is a volunteer organization. Please consider giving some of your time to this wonderful organization. You will get back so much more than you give. Contact Janet Hayes at [jlhayes@msn.com](mailto:jlhayes@msn.com), if you would be willing to help us with any of the positions listed above..

# Friendship Corner

"Even if you only have one hour to spare, that will help us out."

This is what I heard at church one Sunday morning. I had an hour or two to spare and what better way to meet new people than to volunteer, so away I went to help out with the Annual Flea Market.

I had been on the TUC Women's Society website before moving to Tokyo but it really didn't prepare me for the Flea Market world I was about to step into. Trying to hang my jacket up in the foyer coat closet was just about impossible as the entrance to it was covered with large bags full of paper and plastic bags. There were so many my first thought was what do we do, sell all these bags, who would ever want to buy used shopping bags. Little did I know as I walked upstairs to the childrens sale area what I was truly in for. It was scary and overwhelming so I fled to the basement where it was slightly less intimidating.

Never in my life had I seen such large mountains of clothes piled high on every available table with only narrow walkways between them. It was only Tuesday morning and already it seemed there was more stuff than could ever be possibly sold at a one day sale but the clothes just kept on coming. As I stressed a bit, the ladies who had obviously done this before were happily chatting and laughing as they sorted, folded and restacked the amazing variety of merchandise that would be for sale. I soon found out when one walks in and says, what do you want me to do, you are quickly given something to do and the opportunity to join in with the chatting and laughing.

I returned again on Thursday to help and was caught up in the "Flea Market Fever." I heard that last year people were lined up around the corner and down the street waiting for the doors to open at 10:00am, so, I just had to be there Friday morning to see how long the line was this year. Let me just say, It Was Long. And all those bags I had a hard time getting over to hang my jacket up, well by 1:00pm Friday afternoon they were in short supply and no we were not selling them. They were used to package the carefully chosen purchases of the people who came to support our TUC Outreach fund.

I had the opportunity to work alongside wonderful women. Women who were open and accepting of someone new coming to help out and wanting to feel apart of something far bigger than myself. Some I will probably never see again as a few were leaving Tokyo for new destinations, but many were ladies I see Sunday morning filling more and different volunteer positions. Ladies who have passion for what they believe in. Women of Faith I had the pleasure of spending an hour or two of my spare time with.

If you ever hear "Even if you only have one hour to spare, that will help us out" Go help out. Many have much to gain from your hour of help, especially yourself as I found out.  
Noel Johnson



**A performance on Sunday May 25<sup>th</sup> At TUC Sanctuary, 2:30 pm  
Come and sing together!!**

**Title: Japanese children's songs in early Meiji Era and Hymns**

Japanese songs were created in early Meiji Era under the big influence of Hymns. The TUC Communications team and Kimiko Kajiyama will have a performance about how Japanese children's songs were created and influenced by Hymns. Actually some of the very early official children songs in the first textbook by the Government had the tunes of certain hymns. Why did it happen?

In part 1, we introduce 3 songs from the music textbook for children and compare with original hymns. We will talk about the close relationship between both Japanese music and hymns. **Women's Society members, please come and sing the Japanese songs. They are easy. Please come and join in the part.** In the part 2, after a little story of relationship between TUC and origin of Japanese music, Ms. Kumiko Nishimura, wonderful soloist in the Choir, sings beautiful Japanese songs in both English (translated by Kimiko Kajiyama) and Japanese. The songs are "This Way" (Music by Yamada, Kohsaku and Words by Kitahara, Hakusyu), "Cherry Blossoms Hana" (Music by Taki, Rentaro and Words by Takeshima, Hagoromo ) and others.

Please come and enjoy singing and listening with your friends.



### **Ecclesiastes 3 : 1-3 - A Time for Everything**

1 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: 2 a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, 3 a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,

