

OPEN CIRCLE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE TOKYO UNION
CHURCH WOMEN'S SOCIETY

February 2009

Thursday, Feb. 5, 2009

10:30 a.m.

JAPANESE CONCERT

---SHAMISEN and KOTO Performance---

Presented by Kodai Minoda and Kiyoshi Ibukuro



Please come join this special music program and you will be surprised and impressed at their wonderful technique and brilliant talent!!



**Tokyo Union
Church
Women's
Society**

5-7-7 Jingumae

Shibuya-ku,

Tokyo

03-3400-0942

**Monday to
Friday**

10:00 - 14:00

(03) 3400-0942

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP FROM 9:30 A.M.

IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

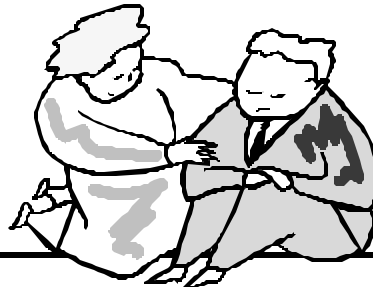
Love

February brings Valentines Day with hearts and chocolates galore. We hear about love all the time in popular songs. We often say how much we love chocolate or the latest movie. Is this really what love is all about? We love our families and friends, but how often do we take the time to tell them? More importantly, how often do we go out of our way to show that love?

In Matthew 5:44, Jesus commanded his disciples to "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." We could use more of that kind of love in today's world. So many people are facing difficulties with jobs, family members or health. I enjoy Valentines Day with its candy and hearts, but I really appreciate a kind word or even a smile on a rough day. It is amazing how just a little act of kindness or a word of encouragement brightens the worst day.

So I hope that you have a wonderful Valentines Day. Remember to celebrate with those that you love, but remember too the importance of showing love to everyone in little ways throughout the year.

In God's love,
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

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



MONTHLY PROGRAM

JAPANESE CONCERT

---SHAMISEN and KOTO Performance---

Presented by Kodai Minoda and Kiyoshi Ibukuro

Traditional style of Japanese music has been getting more interested and admired among young Japanese in recent years and there are also excellent young players of traditional instruments.

Kodai Minoda and Kiyoshi Ibukuro are gifted young men with a great talent of music and they have performed Japanese classical music with their Shamisen and Koto instruments in many concerts and events not only for Japanese but also for expatriates and tourists from other countries as professional musicians.

Their beautiful collaboration will show amazing skills of powerful but delicate touch of fingers on the strings and attract the audience to their world.

The program covers variety of music, from Japanese classical to Bach and you will learn about Japanese instruments and traditional music from the performers during the concert.

Please come join this special music program and you will be surprised and impressed at their wonderful technique and brilliant talent!!

MOPS - MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS

Thursday, February 26, 2009

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. Please feel free to check out the website for MOPS at www.mops.org.



CLASSES

Well, we are now into the new year, and what a great time to take a class at TUC! All members should have received a copy of the Winter-Spring 2009 Class Catalog in the mail, so just look it over to see all the wonderful classes we have to offer. There are several new classes starting up, and it's not too late to register. Even if a class has already begun, don't hesitate to ask the teacher if you can join. Whether it's flower arranging, Tai Chi, cooking, painting, culture, language, or some fun craft classes, you're sure to find something you'll enjoy. Here's some upcoming short-term classes, or classes suited to a single lesson, to get you started!



Ikebana (#6-1,2,3) – Sogetsu, Ohara, and Ichiyo (see catalog)

Monday: Japanese Literature: “Once Upon a Time” Folktales (#4-2), begins Feb. 16
Monday: Tai-Chi for Health (#7-2)

Tuesday: Sumi-e & Screen Painting (#5-2)
Tuesday: Japanese Gardens Tour (#4-1) – 1 lesson, Feb. 24
Tuesday: Kimekomi Dolls (#3-7) – 4 lessons, Feb 3 - 24
Tuesday: Chabako: Japanese Tea Box (#3-4) – 1 lesson, Mar. 3 – sign-up by Feb. 13
Tuesday: Mashiko Pottery Town Bus Tour, April 28 – sign up soon, seats are filling up fast!

Wednesday: Pottery Making (#3-9), 3 lessons, begins Feb 4
Wednesday: English (ESL) for Adults (#8-1) and English Conversation (#8-2)

Friday: Beautiful Japanese Wrapping (#3-1) – 3 lessons, Jan 30, Feb 6, Feb 13
Friday: Everyday Japanese Beginning (#8-3) and Intermediate (#8-4)
Friday: Sho-do Japanese Calligraphy (#3-3), 5 lessons, Feb 6 – Mar 6
Friday: Tea Ceremony & Origami in Kimono (#4-7), 1 lesson, Feb 13
Friday: Vietnamese Cooking (#2-2), 1 lesson, Feb. 20
Friday: Kappabashi Kitchen District tour (#4-5), Feb. 27
Friday: Fun with Furoshiki (#3-2) – 1 lesson, Feb. 27

Saturday: East Meets West: Jap.Fusion Cooking (#2-3), 2 lessons, Jan 31 & Feb 7

Class registration is accepted at the Women's Society desk, Monday through Friday, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

NEW!!! TUCWS CLASSES COMMITTEE – MEMBERS NEEDED!

You're invited to join our new committee to help plan classes for our TUCWS members. Our first meeting will be **Thursday, February 12**, at 10 a.m. in the Library, followed by lunch, too. Everyone is welcome. Microsoft Word and Excel experience helpful. Please send an email to Nancy Schmatz at **tucws.classes@yahoo.com**.

MONTHLY TOUR – FEBRUARY

Tour to Kawagoe – “Little Edo”

Wednesday, February 18

The city of Kawagoe boasts an illustrious history that places it on Japan's historical map along with Nikko and Kamakura. The city, its cultural treasures, and Edo-era architecture are so important that it is often referred to as Ko-edo (Little Edo).

For most of its history, Kawagoe was a castle town dominated by the structure that was completed in 1457. The castle itself is gone and the only remaining structure is the **Honmaru Goten**, the huge residence of the lord of the castle. Its spacious [tatami](#) rooms, pretty [gardens](#) and toilets are open to the public for viewing.



Kawagoe streets preserve the atmosphere of the [Edo period](#) (17c to 19c.) **Kurazukuri Street** is lined with the thick-walled, fireproof grain storehouses that were once a common sight in Edo. **The Bell of Time** is a bell tower originally built between 1624 and 1644. The present structure goes back to 1894, a year after the Great Fire of Kawagoe, and has been telling time for 350 years; it has been deemed as a symbol of the city. **Kitain** is the regional head [temple](#) of the [Buddhist Tendai sect](#) and goes back to at least 830 AD. On the grounds are the famous 500 statues of Rakan, a disciple of Buddha. The **Confectionery Row** (*Kashiya Yokochō*) is a small backstreet alley where stores sell old-fashioned cheap sweets and snacks, most of which are priced at less than 50 yen. Since Kawagoe is famous for its [sweet potatoes](#), one can find such treats as sweet potato chips, sweet potato ice cream, sweet potato coffee, and even sweet potato beer, brewed at the local Coedo Brewery. Many tourists come here to enjoy the nostalgic atmosphere of the early [Showa period](#).

Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes.

Meeting Time: 9:35 a.m.

Meeting Place: Ikebukuro Station, Tobu Toju Line, front of platform.

Accessible via the JR Yamanote Line, and

Tokyo Metro Lines: Marunouchi [M25], Yurakucho [Y09], or
Fukuto shin [F09].

Please search on www.hyperdia.com to find your fastest route.

Cost: ¥500 plus train is ¥450 one-way (30 minute ride to Kawagoe) and 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:

March - Monthly Program



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, March 5, 2009

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

2009 Country - Papua New Guinea

In Christ There Are Many Members, Yet One Body

On **March 5, 2009**, the women of Papua New Guinea invite us to have the confidence of Ruth, who left what was familiar to her and went with Naomi to another land. They call us to ponder the mystery of our oneness in Christ in their context and our own. Papua New Guinea has one of the most heterogeneous indigenous populations in the world. More than 800 languages are spoken. Their diversity is expressed in this saying, "For each village another culture." Yet, the bilum, a traditional string bag is found nearly everywhere. Bilums come in many colors, sizes, shapes, and styles and often the creative designs identify where the bilums were made. Men usually prefer a long handle style that is worn over the shoulder. Women carry their babies and their market produce. Bilums are also used as a hanging cradle for a sleeping baby.

We are also invited to reflect on the collaborative networks among women. In Exodus, the story of deliverance from bondage begins with women's non-violent intervention. Their actions ignore the social forces that are rooted in the fallacy that one group is superior to the other and is entitled to exploit them. Together, the women overcome evil with good. So, too, in the context of Papua New Guinea, we are given examples of women's intervention in Bougainville and in the Highlands. And we are called to identify women's intervention in our own context.

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 lauraleeng@aol.com

SHINBOKU-KAI (INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP GROUP)

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 26, 2009

Love Stories



February is the month for celebrating LOVE! So our February Shinboku-kai meeting will be discussing what love means to each of us. Whether it's the love we have for God, our spouse, children, parents, friends, relatives, or other loves ones, love is an essential part of our being.

Our fellow Shinboku-kai member, Gloria Bahaj, has graciously invited us to have our meeting at her apartment. Meeting place is outside the exit wickets at Roppongi Itchome subway station (Namboku subway line N-05) at 10 a.m., where we will walk together to her building.

Please RSVP to nancyschmatz@yahoo.com. Feel free to bring a friend, a brunch item to share if you want (not necessary), as well as your ideas for future gatherings for Shinboku-kai.

Any questions on that day, call Gloria at 03-5401-1657.



Mashiko Pottery Town – Bus Tour * NEW *

Mashiko is a small village famous for precisely one thing: its **pottery**. Distinctive, heavy, country-style pottery; simple and rustic in style. There are about 50 pottery shops in Mashiko (along with about 300 kilns) into which you can wander and watch the craftspeople at work. We will be there right before their big Golden Week sale and be able to try to bargain for wonderful prices. We suggest you bring a wheeled suitcase and packing materials with you to carry your treasures home.

Our chartered bus will depart from Tokyo Union Church. We will be able to walk the town leisurely, enjoy lunch at a restaurant of your choice, and have show-and-tell on the way back to Tokyo. Come and join us. First come, first served. There are only 21 spaces, so registration is required.

Maximum # of people: 21—Sign up early at the Receptionist Desk, this trip will fill up fast.

Tour Organizers: Mariko Bessho & Deb Hayman, 03-3324-3610 or debbiesan5@hotmail.com

Date: Tuesday, April 28 **Cost*:** ~ ¥5,000 *Cost is approximate

Time and Place: Depart from TUC at 8:30 a.m., and return around 6:30 p.m.

WE NEED YOU...PLEASE VOLUNTEER!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!

Do you enjoy our programs?

Do you enjoy our classes?

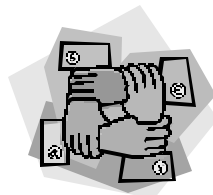
Do you enjoy the fundraisers we have?

Do you enjoy our small groups?

The TUC Women's Society is an organization made up of volunteers. In April, we will elect a new board. Many dedicated volunteers have been giving of their time to make sure we all have many wonderful events to enjoy. As many of us know, people move in and out of our lives. This year is no different. As people move on from Tokyo, we need to fill their positions in order for us to continue doing all the wonderful things we do, ***we need more people to lend a hand.***

Please consider giving some of your time to this wonderful organization. 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, February 5th, at 2 pm. All are welcome. Or for more information contact

Bonne Henry at 047-326-3108 or **bonnieandfrank@yahoo.com**.



DO YOU LIKE TO WHISTLE WHILE YOU WORK? We are looking for workers to help clean up the kitchen at Tokyo Union Church. Women's Society has been asked by the church to give it a good cleaning and make an inventory of items needed in the kitchen. If you are free on February 2nd at 10:00 and you love to do this kind of work, then we would love to have you join us.



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.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY 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. If you plan to come to this month's meeting, please contact Horimi at 080-5502-5230 or email her at **hiromibeat@yahoo.co.jp**.

THE LUNCH BUNCH—*USUALLY MEETS THE 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**

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**.

TOKYO UNION CHURCH

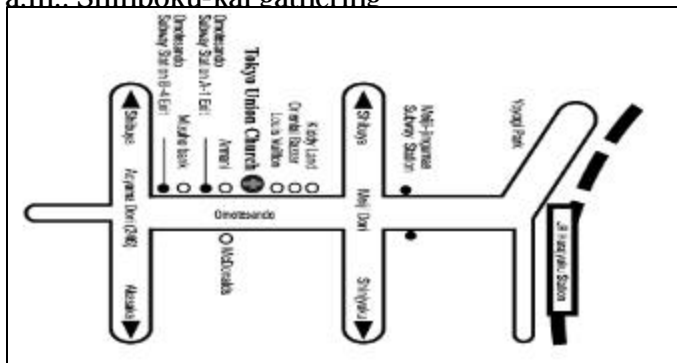
Tokyo Union Church Women's Society Upcoming Calendar of Events

February

- 2— Mon. 10 a.m., TUC Kitchen Clean-Up
- 4 — Wed. 1 p.m. Woman's Society Quilters
- 5— Thur. 9:30 a.m., Pre-program coffee
- 5— Thur. 10:30 a.m., Monthly Program:
Japanese Traditional Music
- 5 — Thur. 2 p.m., open Board Meeting – all invited
- 12 — Thur. 1:30 p.m., Japanese Conversation group
- 12 — Thur. 1 p.m. Mah-Jong
- 13 — Fri. Tea Ceremony & Origami in Kimono
- 13 — Fri. 11 a.m., Homeless Dinner Prep.
- 18 — Wed. Monthly Tour: Kawagoe – “Little Edo”
- 18 — Wed. 1 p.m. Woman's Society Quilters
- 19 — Thurs. 1 p.m. Mah-Jong
- 24 — Tues. Japanese Gardens Tour
- 25 — Wed. Lunch Bunch
- 26 — Thur. 10 a.m., Shinboku-kai gathering
- 27 — Fri. Kappabashi Kitchen District Tour

March

- 5 — Thur. 9:30 a.m., Pre-program coffee
- 5 — Thur. 10:30 a.m., Monthly Program:
Women's World Day of Prayer
- 5 — Thur. 2 p.m., open Board Meeting – all invited
- 6 — Fri. 11 a.m., Homeless Dinner Prep.
- 9-11 — Mon-Wed. Flea Market Set-up
- 12-14 — Thur.-Sat Flea Market
- 18 - Wed. 1 p.m. Woman's Society Quilters
- 19 — Thur. 1:30 p.m., Japanese Conversation group
- 19 — Thurs. 1 p.m. Mah-Jong
- 25 — Wed. Lunch Bunch
- 26 — Thur. 10 a.m., Shinboku-kai gathering



**YOU CAN
FIND
US
HERE**

