



January Schedule



(10:00-12:00)

Jan. 10 (Fri.)	Japanese/Chatting Table (Calendar Exchange)	Asaka Library 1F Shityōkakushitsu
Jan. 17 (Fri.)	New Year's Meeting (Board Meeting 13:00 to 15:50)	Community Center 2F Gakushūshitsu 1F Bikōshitsu
Jan. 24 (Fri.)	Japanese/Chatting Table	Community Center 1F Shōkaishitsu
Jan. 31 (Fri.)	Japanese/Chatting Table	Community Center 2F Gakushūshitsu

* AIS starts on Jan. 10, 2014. There will be no AIS on Jan. 3.

New Year's Meeting

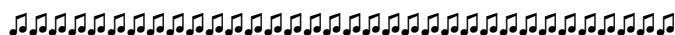


Date: Jan. 17 (Fri.)

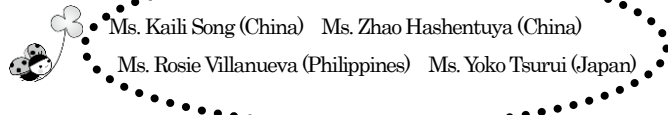


Let's enjoy Japanese songs with our hands!!

For more details, please contact Ms. Watanabe



New Members



Congratulations!



Ms. Parfenova Galina Yurjevna had twins in December.



Nice to Meet You! I'm Esther.

Hui Ming You (Esther) (China)

Nice to meet you. I'm Esther from Hong Kong.

I have been in Japan for almost one year. I'm sorry I cannot speak Japanese perfectly.

I really love Japanese culture, especially arts and crafts. The traditional handicraft is so wonderful and beautiful. The colors and special patterns appear elegant and imaginative.

Moreover, I like Japanese cuisine very much. For example, seafood ramen and *sashimi* like *shimesaba* (mackerel cooked with vinegar). It is quite difficult to find local food in Hong Kong. The materials are almost imported from foreign countries. That's why there are many kinds of foreign cuisine in Hong Kong. For example, shrimp toast (western style cross over with Guangdong style), Hong Kong style milk tea (mixture of several types of tea leaves).

I'm extremely interested in cooking. Let's do cuisine exchange together.

Minutes of Board Meeting

Dec. 6 (10 Board Members and 2 Observers)

*Schedule and report from each group

*About the 25th anniversary event

*Process of electing board members and time of election

Information

*Study Group: "Let's think about Japanese Language"

Date: Jan. 17 (Fri.) 9:00 to 9:50

*The New Year's Meeting is moved to Jan. 17. We'll have calendar exchange on Jan. 10 as scheduled. If you have extra calendars, please share them.

★Report of fall excursion on Nov. 15: "National Museum of Nature and Science".

There were 37 participants (12 foreigners and 25 Japanese).

We saw the artificial satellite, dinosaur displays, and so on, under the guidance of the museum volunteers.



Anne Frank

Jinko Kakuta (Japan)

In the late summer of 2013, I enjoyed sightseeing in Amsterdam, the city of canals and bicycles, for a week. The house and the annex where Anne Frank actually stayed in hiding for 2 years remained as it was. Anne, her parents, her sister Margot, and 4 others from two other families lived there, above a canning factory without making any sound. This famous tourist spot was the most memorable place for me during my stay in Amsterdam. The secret door behind the book shelf, remained as it was 70 years ago. From the only small window in the annex, Anne and others in hiding might have partially seen canals, trees, and skies.

A diary with the red checked cover that Anne's father gave her still existed and was exhibited. Words in neat handwriting in pencil filled a number of pages. Anne was brought up well in a wealthy family. She was cheerful, bright, and fashionable with many friends; she was just like any other ordinary girl.



Eventually, all 8 people in hiding together were discovered and sent to a Nazi's relocation center, and only Anne's father made it back alive.

The sound of ringing church bells was mentioned many times in Anne's diary, and right next to the house where they stayed in hiding is actually a big church with its bells still ringing every 15 minutes now. Anne heard the same sound of the bells as I did. What did she think and feel when she looked outside a bright scenery of Amsterdam through the small window? I truly felt great respect towards Anne for her positive attitude and humor despite the hardship, for her strength and great courage, and for her belief in people's goodness. This great respect could only be felt by actually visiting her home.

In the middle of the room there stood a post with the carved markings of Anne and Margot's heights. On the left was Margot's and on the right was Anne's. The highest mark should be Margot's height, measured for the very last time. She was as tall as me. I could not stop my tears from overflowing from my eyes.

Dec 24, 2013

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