



December Schedule 10:00 ~ 12:00

Date	Subject	Place
Dec. 04 (Fri.)	Japanese/ Chatting Table Board Meeting (13:00~15:00)	Community Center 1F Shūkaishitsu 2F Bikōshitsu
Dec. 11 (Fri.)	Year-End Meeting (10:00 ~ 14:00)	Community Center 2F Ongakushitsu
Dec. 18 (Fri.)	Japanese/ Chatting Table	Community Center 1F Shūkaishitsu

40 Days Baby Sitting

Yaeko Watanabe (Japan)

My son's family lives in America and he had his third baby recently, so I went there to help babysit his kids. As the baby was born two weeks earlier than expected, I was worried about him. However, after breastfeeding, the baby gradually gained weight and turned out to be fine and chubby by the time I left America. I was impressed by the power of breast milk!



My son's family lives in Novi in Michigan, located approximately 40 km northwest of Detroit. Novi is a commuter town with a lot of green space and is fashionable, safe and quiet. Within 10-20 minutes driving from their house, there are a lot of shopping malls and other amenities. During my stay, I took my 7-year-old grandson to and from the school bus stop every day. It was just about a 5 minute walk. (sometimes my 2-year-old grandson accompanied us.)

The day before I left America, I went sightseeing in Detroit. First, I got on the monorail at the station near my son's company and made a circuit of the city. I watched the landscape from the train's window. Then I found that the city had a lot of historic architecture such as the magnificent Gothic Cathedral and the Opera House. Detroit has both historic and contemporary architecture. It reminded me of what the once flourishing motor city used to be like. I also could see rundown buildings in the suburbs. My daughter-in-law said she was very surprised to find that there were more abandoned buildings two years ago. I thought it was a sign of an economic upturn. After that, when I was taking a walk along a big river, I was told that the opposite shore was Canada. I am helplessly weak in geography, so I couldn't believe that on the other side was Canada!

I said goodbye to my beloved grandchildren (ages: 7, 2, 0) and came back home. Since then, whenever I see young mothers in the middle of child raising, I encourage them in my heart saying that I know how hard it is to raise children, but their children are most adorable at a young age.

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Minutes of Board Meeting

Nov. 13 (8 Board Members, 1 Observer)

*Report from each group

*Result of questionnaire on the series of events of AIS's 25th anniversary



Information

*We are going to have an annual calendar-exchange at our New Year's Meeting on Jan. 15. Please bring next year's extra calendars if you have any at home on that occasion.

*Japanese Study Group: Dec. 18 (Fri.) 9:00~9:50

Year-End Meeting

Dec. 11(Fri.) 10:00~14:00

(We meet at 10:00 and start at 10:30)

We have entertainment such as Kung Fu Fan, Dances of Philippine and Sri Lanka, belly dance, and Bingo game!

★Please donate unneeded goods if you have any, for bingo prizes. We'll collect them on Dec.04.

Contact Information: Inoue

Welcome to AIS

(New Members)

Ali Alihasam (Ghana) Shika Badoni (India)

Yang Xu (China) Jabeen Quazi Mahera (Bangladesh)



It Is A Small World

Yuko Akimoto (China)

"It is a small world ..."the beautiful singing voice with different languages of the world was echoing around the meeting room. A lecture about the languages of the world was held at AIS the other day.

An event group member showed some examples and slides about the different languages and letters of the world. Several native Chinese, Korean, English, French, Germany and Nepal read the examples and explained them briefly. The AIS members listened carefully with great interest and answered the quizzes eagerly. It seemed they learned a lot about the different languages of the world through this lecture and it was truly a wonderful one.

People wanted to learn more and gain new knowledge and curiosity was piqued through this lecture. The best aim in life and happiest outcome of human life is study. The most important thing we learned is the world is small, we coexistent with different nations and languages and we can get along with each other by understanding and working hard together to make a better & beautiful world. Though it is not an easy task.

I have been living here in Japan for 28 years. Thanks to AIS, I have improved my Japanese and have gotten used to society and have been leading a good life happily. From now on I will try my best to do something to repay you for your kindness in the future.

