



February Schedule

10:00 ~ 12:00

Date	Subject	Place
Feb. 05 (Fri.)	Japanese/ Chatting Table	Community Center 2F Gakushūshitsu
Feb. 12 (Fri.)	Japanese/ Chatting Table Board Meeting (13:00~15:00)	Community Center 1F Shūkaishitsu 1F Washitsu
Feb. 19 (Fri.)	Japanese Cooking (Open School)	Community Center 2F Jishūshitsu
Feb. 26 (Fri.)	Japanese/ Chatting Table	Community Center 1F Shūkaishitsu

Japanese Cooking (Open School)

Date & Time: Feb. 19 (Fri.) 10:00 to 13:00

Demonstrator: Ms. Kahoru Egawa

Menu: • Winter soup with six ingredients (main dish)
 • Fried *kiriboshidaikon* (thinly sliced and dried strips of daikon radish) with curry flavor
 • *Ohagi* (rice cake covered with bean jam)

Things to bring: apron, head scarf. And dish cloth

Fee: ¥300

First 18 AIS members and 5 visitors can attend.

Please apply to Noriko Yoshida (2/5 to 2/12).



Leaf-letter

Miwako Kato (Japan)

The other day I was asked to find a magnolia tree and to pick some leaves by a friend of mine who is a librarian at an elementary school in Omiya. She has been too busy to collect leaves of magnolia trees. She told me that she was going to use those leaves as post-cards and wanted her students to write a short message on them. The magnolia is a tree with large and white flowers that smell very strong and sweet. It also has very big, thick and glossy leaves, some of which are 25 centimeters long. Her students write their message on the smooth side of a leaf with a marker pen. This is literally "hagaki." "Ha" means a leaf and "gaki(kaki)" means writing, that is, writing on a leaf. Writing a message on a big leaf is interesting, isn't it? She once sent a leaf-letter with a stamp on it to her friend, and the friend actually got it. If you try to write a leaf-letter, be careful to put an extra stamp on it. Because it is a nonstandard-size mail.

Hiragana News in English Jan. 29, 2016

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Minutes of Board Meeting

Jan. 08 (8 Board Members and 2 observers)

*Report from each group

*Review of distribution list of Hiragana News

*About "Welcome to AIS"

*About participation of members with babies and infants

Information

① Japanese Study Group: 9:00 to 9:50

② Japanese Study Group Poco A Poco: 13:00 to 15:00

Welcome to AIS (New Members)

Ms. Takako Tajiri (Japan)

Ms. Huynh Truong Thank Van (Vietnam)

My First Participation in
"Year-end Meeting"

Reiko Watanabe (Japan)

I was looking forward to participating in the year-end party, because I could not take part in it last year.

"Kung Fun Fan" was played with a fan being folded and opened producing a big sound, which was really a superb performance. That must have been the result of much practice.

I watched belly dancing for the first time and my eyes became riveted on her fascinating dancing in a beautiful costume. If I were an Arabian king, I would surely make her my wife.

Seeing a Philippine dance was my first experience too.

I heard that their attractive dresses were made carefully by a fellow member's sister in the Philippines every time they performed a new dance. Their dance in ideal harmony reached a high degree of perfection, and made us happy for some reason. Another fellow member, originally from Sri Lanka, brought her relatives along and a pair of them showed off a Sri Lankan dance. They said that they arranged the dance by themselves and we were so impressed by their performance full of vigor.

A quiz with prizes and a game of bingo followed their performances. I love the bingo and got a "folding umbrella" as a prize.

Then came today's main event for gourmands like me. We held a potluck party at lunch time. It was just a "food festival" that everybody might mistake for a restaurant serving dishes from around the world. I wanted to eat all the dishes, and ate many kinds of them little by little due to the limited volume of my stomach. Every food was very delicious and I found why many of them were so good-tasting. It was the happiest time of my life. I wish to thank the members in charge for arranging such an enjoyable time to eat delicious foods with people from various countries.

