

**IAC ACTIVITY****FIDDLE PLAY AND A SPEECH ON CELTIC CULTURE**

By Kana Otake



The IAC will open a fiddle concert on November 30, Sunday evening, having a fiddler, Miss *Kana Otake* as a player and speaker. Under the name of "One Coin Concert", the party is open to anybody and the IAC will welcome whoever is interested in Celtic or Irish music and culture in a belief that spectators will enjoy listening to her performance.

One Coin Concert means you are required to put a 500 yen coin or more in a donation box at the entrance while you will be served some wine, Irish coffee, Soda-bread and Irish stew. She is a specialist in the field of Celtic culture as she has stayed many times in Ireland, Scotland, Bretagne in France, Holland, etc., studying their culture and music.

The party will be held at Kinro Shimin Kaikan (Labor Citizen Hall) on November 30, and it will start from 18:30. The coins in the box will be shared also for helping children's education overseas.

**University students from Australia Home stay**

From Australia, 10 students selected from universities all over the land will be home-staying in Chigasaki from November 28 through December 1. They are scheduled to visit Hamasuka junior high school soon after their arrival on November 28, and learn Japanese culture on the following day from the IAC members. What they will learn includes kimono wearing, tea ceremony, etc. to be served in a room on the fourth floor of the Civic Culture Hall. It will start from 14:00. Afterwards at 18:30, a welcome party is planned by the IAC at the same place. Many IAC members and host families will join the party.

All the students will spend the whole day on the 30th with host families, and they will return to Australia the following day.

**THE END OF THE YEAR PARTY**

The IAC Year-end party will be held on December 20, from 13:00, at the 6th floor of Kinro Shimin Kaikan (Labor Citizen Hall). The party will be open to anybody outside of the IAC members, but there will be some charge to join. No details have been made available as yet, but there will be some performances, games, etc., and it will be fun for attendants. If more information is needed, call 090-1557-7789.

**PICTURE BOOK.....****A TOOL for GOOD RELATIONSHIPS****"BOOKSTART" to be in effect from November.**

The environment of child care is rapidly changing. How to raise children and how to maintain relationships between parents and children are not only the issue of a household but also the issue of the local society or community. The BOOKSTART campaign, as one of its actions, is to materialize opportunities for guardians of children to become associated with other people or community.

"BOOKSTART" is an action to create an opportunity for guardians and babies to relax and spend quality time by looking at a picture book. By sharing time together, babies experience the parent's love while guardians feel at ease with child care. The community supports the development of environment of child care.

The implementation will start from November this year, and the health center and the city library are going to be the places where it will be conducted.

How this project will proceed.

(1) At the hall of "7 months child care consultation" being operated by the Health Section. The consultation is also carried out at the main building of the library by giving a similar package. The package contains two picture books, picture book pamphlets, illustration advice, child care-related information, etc.

(2) For babies and guardians needing consultation, the care taker will read books and hand out the package together with warm messages.

The main body : Library, "BOOKSTART" citizen volunteer, Health Section

**People In Town****CHIA-JUNG LEE from TAIWAN and CANADA**

李佳蓉



Lee Chia-Jung was born in Taipei, Taiwan. After high school, she went to university in Canada majoring in Child Studies in Montreal, Quebec. She took a Japanese summer course at McGill University. It was suggested that she come to Japan to take a 6-week practical course at the ICU (International Christian University) in Mitaka, Tokyo. There, she learned Japanese traditional culture such as *Noh* and *Kyogen*, and the study was very educational and helpful for her to understand Japan and the Japanese. She had married a Japanese man and came over to Japan in September, 2007. Nevertheless, her father was working in a Japanese trading company in Taiwan and her mother also speaks Japanese. So, she had some Japanese knowledge already from her childhood. And her marriage with her Japanese husband happened because both of their fathers were working in the same company.

She is still trying to learn Japanese at the IAC's Thursday class, and she recently was introduced by a teacher to the IAC's Sewing Box group, where several ladies gather once a week to make original handicrafts for the purpose of sending the revenue to an NPO in Cambodia. The NPO's activity is to help children's education in the country. She says she enjoys working together, and feels very happy having an opportunity to talk with ladies in the group.

She likes to read and travel, but right now she is trying to be a good housewife as she never did housework at home while she was going to school. Currently she is trying her best to learn Japanese cooking from her mother-in-law as well as Japanese cooking magazines, and it's something she'd like to do not only as a task domestically.

She highly respects Japanese people's hospitality at shops, restaurants, etc., but she questions it when many young Japanese won't give up a seat on the train for elderly people or young women with babies. Also, people always look rushed and not so relaxed as in Taiwan or Canada.

Regardless, Chigasaki seems to her to have both urban and rural culture and she feels comfortable living in the city, and would like to continue her life here for many years to come.

**A LETTER FROM A STUDENT IN PERU**

Dear respectable members of the IAC,

The motive of my writing this time is to say hello to everyone of your organization, and express my sincere thanks for your monetary support. My name is Lorena Andrade Ego-Aguirre and I'm 19 years old though I'll be 20 very soon. Currently, I'm majoring in psychology at the University of Ricardo Palma and am in the 5th term or half way into the course. The study this term seems to be most difficult since the content of the study is getting to be more technical. I have to do homework every day. Presently, I'm studying six subjects; psychology, a practical class, social psychology, psychophysiology, the description discovery methodology, and psychology Step II.

In the class of experiment work, we have to create a cumulative experimentation so that we can use it to support our thesis for graduation. In this class, our group and myself chose a subject titled "A tendency to Alexitimia in adolescence". We went through almost all the experimentation, and we will present our experiments to a male professor of psychiatry to show that our conclusion is correct and to make it valuable. A female professor admires our experiment and she cheers us up all the time saying we are a good group.

In the meantime, a part of the examination will finish on May 19. I've already been prepared to get good marks. Actually, the examination had been scheduled to be given a week ago, but it was delayed by a week due to the ALQUE meeting.

I'm closing this letter for now wishing to send my appreciation again for your kind support.

Lorena Andrade Ego-Aguirre

Note:

IAC is sending some money through an NGO named GRACIAS AMIGO in Fujisawa, and this letter was sent to the IAC in May, this year.