

A GOOD LITTLE THING

ちょっといい話

He was a hero in the hospital.....

When I was recently hospitalized for a couple months due to an unexpected traffic accident, one of my American friends kindly visited me twice each week, bringing with him gifts of cookies or flowers, and staying more than an hour each time. In the latter half of my hospitalization he not only became popular among the other patients, but also became something of a local hero as he shared cookies or assisted others who were in the orthopedics ward because of their injuries. Eventually, he came to see me 10 times in all, which was more than my husband did.

Why was he so kind? It was because he experienced a very lonesome stay when he was hospitalized for two weeks a few years ago. His room was separated from the other patients because he couldn't speak good Japanese and the nurses and everyone else couldn't speak English, while the TV in his room showed programs only in Japanese and he couldn't even ask the hospital staff to buy a newspaper for him. He felt like he had been in jail.

When he himself was in the hospital, he told me that a representative of City Hall had visited him only twice. It appears Japanese people usually feel it is OK to visit someone who is hospitalized only once unless they are a relative or a close friend.

He has also experienced his neighbors hurriedly escaping from him when he tries to say hello in the corridor of his apartment. Perhaps that's why he felt so happy when he was welcomed by the smiling patients at the hospital. I think his visits helped us all achieve better communication and it surely improved my English.

My foreign friend is in his 40s, is an ALT at high schools in our city, and is very popular in December because he often plays Santa Claus during the Christmas season. I'm trying to reciprocate his thoughtfulness in a way that is not necessarily traditionally Japanese. Once in a while I invite him to my home and present him with baked goods that I have made myself since I know he likes these types of homemade food very much.

It would be nice if people from overseas could feel at home in Japan since I'm sure they would like to communicate with the local people even if there is a language barrier.

ANNOUNCEMENT: *The Chigasaki Breeze* has been issued every other month since October 2005 with the assistance of City Hall, but this program came to an end in FY2006. The city is going to assess the necessity of issuing an English newspaper and will make some decision by the end of FY2007. Therefore, we at the IAC will continue to issue this newspaper in this style so we can provide necessary information to foreigners.

The Chigasaki Breeze has been issued by the International Association of Chigasaki (IAC). If you wish to subscribe, please send ¥480 in stamps for 6 issues to the International Association of Chigasaki c/o Bunka Suishinka, Chigasaki City Hall, 1-1-1 Chigasaki, Chigasaki City 253-0041. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to send e-mail to [shimadayut@jcom.home.ne.jp] Chief editor: Yutaka Shimada. Editing staff: Yoshiyasu Itoh, Seiji Nakane, Ayako Sakai, Yukiko Wada, and Hideo Yuge.

Medical Information Series XI

Doctors Available for Consultation in English

Kagawa Clinic (I.m, Gyn)

Kagawa 6-8-33 Tel.52-9687

Tomiyama hifuka Clinic (D)

Kagawa 1-11-25 Tel.51-7755

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Remarks:

I.m.=Internal medicine Gyn. = Gyn ecology

D=Dermatology U=Urology S = Surgery

Pe.=Pediatrics Ps.=Psychiatry clinic

Confucius says.....

“While I do not want others to impose on me, I also want not to impose on others. Do not impose on others what you do not desire”

Japanese Proverbs with the English Equivalent

• Akuji sen-ri wo hashiru

あくじ せんり はし
悪事 千里 を 走る

Bad news travels fast.

• Mochi wa mochiya

もち もちや
餅 は 餅屋

The right man for the right job.

• Kuchi wa wazawai no moto

くち わざわい
口 は 災 の もと

The mouth is the gate of evil.

• Junin toiro

じゅうにん といろ
十人 十色

There is no accounting for tastes.

• Saru mono wa hibi ni utoshi

さるもの は ひび うと
去るものは 日々に疎し

Out of sight, out of mind.

The International Association of Chigasaki (IAC) invites you to come and join our International Activities and Intercultural Events.