



THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF Y'S MEN'S CLUBS

**REGION 9** ワイズメンズクラブ国際協会西日本区  
**JAPAN WEST**



“Takarazuka Y's men's club 2015 ”

NO2

<http://www.kobeymca.org/ys/takarazuka/>



**“ Greeting for New Year 2015 ”**

**by Kazuyo Sugitani**



*I wish you all a happy new year!*

2014 was an exciting but busy year for both Y's men and myself. For this term 2014-15, Takarazuka Y's men's Club sent a District Governor and two club men as Treasurer and Secretary to Rokko District to which we belong. So it's our responsibility to give a full support to various activities of the district. It's no wonder that it makes us busier and actually we were busier and will be busier until the end of this term. We are going to have a big charity event for Kobe YMCA new project which will be held on January 24. We'll work hard to make it successful. The next big event will be a spring charity bazaar. We must be prepared for it. We had interesting

programs so far to get even non-members interested and we tried to invite many non-members to get them to know what Y's men is doing. We'll continue to have interesting programs which everyone enjoys. Through those interesting programs, we will be able to cultivate our fellowship and leadership

as well. Finally we will do our activities with YMCA with charity and mutual understanding. We would like to continue to do our annual theme "Let's enjoy the joy of sharing. Widen the circle of it!" second half of the term

## “ Visiting Seattle ”

by *Kazuyo Sugitani*

I stayed in Seattle for two months in Summer of 2014. During my stay there, I had a great opportunity to visit two Y's services in Seattle. MM East Madison (President Lee A. Woodard and Seattle Downtown( President Sharon Meadows ) The both were introduced by Yukio Yamasaki men of Kobe Port Club and Seattle Downtown is his club's IBC. I also visited our **IBC Yakima (President John Herdrich)**. Talking with Lee on the phone a few times, he planned a special joint meeting with Seattle Downtown club for me. It was held at a restaurant. I was told that they used to have a meeting at YMCA but they recently changed their meeting place to a restaurant in the expectation of recruiting a member. Both of clubs are small membership and need more younger members to participate their activities. I think it is a common problem which other Y's men's club in the world are facing. Mr. Kwame Turner picked me up and he was kind enough to take me to West Seattle Stadium and African Museum before the meeting. There were 7members attending. Although it was the first time for me to meet them, they were very friendly. It was good to be there when they had an induction of Vice President of MM East Madison. A new V. President is Kevin Obbay who is young and a son-in-law of Wayne Smith(former President of Yakima Y's service). I hope he will bring his young power to encourage members. President of Seattle Downtown, Sharon told me that there are only four men in her club. I feel they really need more members to carry out their activities. I gave a brief introduction of Y's Takarazuka and present situation about Japan-west Region showing a map of organization of it. They looked interested in my talk and asked a lot of questions about our club and Y's in Japan. We even began to talk about IBC between MM East Madison and Takarazuka. I think It would be nice to catch up in the future. The possible thing we could begin with will be exchanging a bulletin regularly. It was a very pleasant and exciting visit for me



Two days later I visited Yakima our BSC Yakima Y's Service. It took me three hours by bus ,which was a nice short trip. I was glad that President big John met me at the bus stop. He took me to Yakima YMCA and YMCA stuff gave me about one hour tour in the building. It is bigger than one of YMCAs in Seattle which Wayne's daughter Heidi took me. I think it is because of their life style. People living in Yakima might need YMCA more than Seattle. I thought YMCA in Yakima is well programmed for family in the community. There are so many different rooms with different facilities which can attract the

community. I can imagine the whole family-, parents, all level of children- age -could be satisfied with YMCA at the same time. I thank big John and YMCA staff for giving their time to show me around YMCA very much. After YMCA tour, John took me to his house where I stayed one night. Wayne and Grace Smith came over by his big motor house. I have already known Wayne through emails but it was the first time to meet Wayne's wife, Grace and Jon's wife Susan. Both of them are Y's men members. As other members were away for their vacations , I met only these two couples on the night.

Sudan prepared the delicious dinner and we enjoyed talking a lot on various topics. From Y's experiences to their jobs in overseas as a teacher. We had a wonderful time together until midnight. Next morning they took me to a restaurant at a golf course for breakfast and on the way to the restaurant they showed me around Yakima such as apple trees field and newly development areas. Yakima is growing rapidly and so when I come back next time I think I will find a big change for sure. It was a short stay but I'm so grateful for their friendly and warm hospitality. It is because Wataru & Hiromi Nagao have kept in touch with them since we made a contract of IBC in Brisbane. Wayne showed me a lot of photos taken in Japan and Yakima with them. It shows how nice it is to have a connection with other clubs not only as DBC but as IBC. Since we are in the same organization doing volunteer activities with YMCA globally. Thank you all and looking forward to seeing you all again soon!

## **“ Reunion with Y’s Service Club of Hilo, Hawaii ”**

*by Yumi Ishida*

As I promised that I would come back to Hilo and get together again with the people of Hilo Club when I left for Japan after the Hawaii RC 2014 had been finished June 1, 2014, I made it. Visiting Hilo every year is my annual event to touch the Hawaiian nature and Aloha spirit for getting reset myself. This year, I got a wonderful bonus of the reunion.

Thanks to my friend in Hilo, we had a big BBQ party at his Lanai (terrace). Mr.&Mrs. Jimmy Fujimoto, Lanny(CP), June and Eileen came, There were also a famous Kumu Hula(Hula teacher) and her husband.

We had a long, happy time with drinking, singing and hula dancing lasting almost midnight.

Jimmy and Lilian are old friends of Wataru Nagao, one of our members.



It was just the time that lava stones was slowly approaching to a town named Pahoa where Eileen was living though, nobody imagined they would have to evacuate from the town so soon.

A week later, I just had happened to watched TV, Eileen was on the news telling she was preparing to

leave her house as the warning has been made.

I wish that Eileen and her family will have a peaceful and joyful Christmas although the situation is not good.

I thank God for meeting such wonderful people with a lot of Aloha.

## “ The Report of Rokko District Meeting ”

*By Yoko Tago,*

District Governor



The 13 th Rokko District Meeting was held at Kwansei Gakuin Hall on Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the District meeting is to promote friendship and learning.

Over 140 Y's Men gathered together all over the West Japan District.

The 1<sup>st</sup> session was led by Chairman Tago and followed by Banner Ceremony by **8 Clubs Presidents**. Then Rev. Yamasaki read the Bible and the opening prayer was given. All the attendants joined to the donation for the disaster of Hiroshima and East Japan Tsunami Victims. The congratulate speeches by Mr. .Matsumoto who is the board member of the West Region Director and Mr. Mizuno, the General Secretary of Kobe YMCA Japan were given.

At the 2<sup>nd</sup> session Dr. Ken Takeda Prof, Emeritus of Kwansei Gakuin Univ.gave us the lecture on “Child Rearing “ based on behavior modification through his experience of coaching American football. He also has been associated with Kobe YMCA for many years since he was a Yoshima Camp leader and gave the training lectures to the leaders and staff of Kobe YMCA through the years. His humorous talk based on the psychological theory charmed the audience and it was a good learning session.The 3<sup>rd</sup> session was time to promote friendship. Yumi Ishida was the mistress of the Party. Opening was Hula, she introduced Maharo, Hula team consisted 7 students of Kwansei Gakuin Univ. These young beauties charmed all the audience. Then Mr. Okano, the President Asia Region gave us toast to celebrate the gathering and feast started. You will be amazed by the big appetite of Y's Men and the luncheon was filled with laughter There were many announcements from other clubs and districts inviting for the district meetings, and fundraising activities.

The meeting was ended with the warm atmosphere. And I appreciated very much for the all the attendance and special thanks for the members of Takarazuka club for their cooperation and endless effort to make this District meeting successful.

## “ Love On The Run “

by *Hiroko Fukuda*

Committee: YMCA Service

“ The 17<sup>th</sup> Kobe YMCA International Charity Run,2014” was held under the motto of “Love On The Run” on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> at the northern part of Kobe.

Fortunately, it was a fine autumn day and the colored leaves surrounded the ground contrasted well with the blue sky.

This year, we had a new race, one-tenth marathon ( about 4.219km) instead of a longdistance relay race. As usual in the group-run, many groups dressed in fancy dresses or very famous cartoon characters enjoyed running or walking together! From our club, five members had a run in Hawaiian-Hula-Skirts. Of course, they ran very elegantly....? Our club also



served “Chinese noodles” and “Sweet-red-bean soup”. Both were so delicious and hot enough for lunch on such a cold day. It didn’t take much time to sell all them out.

At the raffle, splendid prizes such as, an Air-Round Trip-Ticket for Hong Kong, some invitations for the hotels or dinners, pearl necklaces, sweets, etc. were sponsored by Mitsubishi Corp., Fujitsu, State Street, Cathay Pacific Airways and other many companies and shops.

You can’t imagine how happy those who drew lucky numbers were!

947 runners and 175 volunteers participated in this event and about 1,500 spectators came to see the races. Needless to say, all of them enjoyed running ,watching, eating and chattering together.

Thanks to all of you, we were able to support JYE967,486 for the programs of the handicapped persons to both all YMCAs in Japan and Kobe YMCA.

The biggest event of the club in 2014

## " Let's sing Christmas Carol altogether! "

by *Shigeyuki Wakabayashi*

Christmas Concert was held on December 18, the night cold that powdery snow dances. Christmas



Concert "Evening Sing-in Carol" at the music hall in Takarazuka city. When say Christmas, conspicuous bustling Christmas Sale of towns in Japan, many citizens do not the church, to learn the true meaning of Christmas, the opportunity that is in contact with the beautiful church music arely.

Takarazuka Y's Men's Club, with the financial support of local church and appearances cooperation of amateur music lovers, went a Christmas program for the citizens of 10 th place in this year. At the same time doors open of the music hall, children of kindergarten is beginning the lobby concert, welcomed audience warmly . Hall became full by soon.

**Part 1** of the program is a "Christmas story by reading and music." Bible reading was given by **Mizuura Father** of The Catholic Church, Pipe-organ,chorus,vocal-solo,**handbell**,string ensemble has been inserted between the story.

Following the "Christmas Fantasia" by **pipe organ**, choir singing, etc. J.Rutter's "Christmas Lullabye," "Star Carol", such as playing Bach-Gounod's



"Ave Maria" tenor solo and Vivaldi's"Recorder Concerto Third Movement" has been performed elegantly.

End of the first part, the audience also joined to sing in the medley a few Christmas Carol .

Listening to the Christmas stories and beautiful church music, we all had a moment to pray for peace in the world.

**Part 2** is a fun program that changes the taste "Celebrate Christmas with everyone."

**Pop'n who have disabilities were performed music bell with their mothers.** The audience was



moved by their energetic performance of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Jingle Bells." This is the 5<sup>th</sup> row and Every year they improved. They are like the children of God, and the audience were moved by their performance.Then, came out college

student Hula team the tenor solo came along. "Flowers bloom" the song made by NHK to assist the

victims of the Tohoku Earthquake that occurred in March 2011, it has been sung here and there all over Japan, but this is the only hula team who can perform with this song. Then, all the audience participate in hula "Silent Night".



Finally even the audience of volunteers asked up to the stage, it was sung by full of joy "**Hallelujah Chorus**" of Handel.

After the concert, fundraiser was held in the lobby, for Kobe YMCA international cooperation fund and Tohoku Earthquake victims support activities. We appreciate very much for the generous gift from the citizens and we are filled with the joy of Christmas.

*By Kazuyo Sugitani*



The 10th carol night event was held on the night when the cold wave had covered whole Japan. It was freezing but so many people came to the Vega Hall. They brought a lot of peace and joy to a big hall. The programs were various and well prepared. The first stage was a reading of Bible by a pastor. It was about Christmas. There

were various songs sung by a **opera solo singer**, chorus group who practiced for a several months for this carol night. Pipe organ, piano, violin and other musical instruments were played with songs which were beautiful and gorgeous. Children who have disabilities played a hand bell with mothers' support. They have done beautifully and all audience were deeply moved.



We hear that they will start practice on the next day of the carol night for the next year's performance. . Another exciting stage was Hula dancing by **university female students of Hula team**. It's so beautiful to see many beautiful young girls dancing on the stage. Impressive performances were on the stage one after another and final climax of the carol night was that all chorus group and other performers on the stage sang Christmas Carols with audience. The songs



reverberated through the hall for a while and we all were moved and touched with joy and happiness of being there for celebrating Christmas.

I would like to thank the director of this event and all members involved in preparation and participation. I am looking forward to see the 2015 Carol night.

## **“ Christmas with Hula at YMC of Shiga Gamono ”**

*by Yumi Ishida*

Wonderful experience at Shiga Gamono Club Christmas Meeting was given to me on December 9, 2014. The program was started by a candle-light service with their members, families and visitors, about 30 altogether.

Ms. Atuyo Inoue, PDG of Biwako District has planned something new for her club's Christmas and asked me to help her several months before. According to her request, I had a lecture of history of Hawaiian Kingdom, Aloha spirit and hula culture before my hula performance and hula lesson with the attendants. One of the songs I danced was a Hawaiian hymn based on the story, Jesus and a wealthy young man.



Hawaiian people love the hymn and hula as their Aloha culture is very similar to the Bible, teaching us “SHARE”. We also had a hula lesson of Silent Night. I felt like that everybody had enjoyed with their first experience. Ms. Keiko Sugai, CP said to me, “I couldn't imagine the two different things, hula and Christmas how they can make a match at all but now I have really understood. It was amazing.”

It was a very cold day however I was filled with a big warm hearted feeling from the Y's men and their families. Thanks God.

## **“ Ashiya Y's men's Christmas meeting ”**

*By Kazuyo Suitani*

It was a pleasant and well planned Christmas party. Their annual country music party with band and dancing is know to everybody. As it's the last Christmas party in our district, many Y's men attended to the party. We enjoyed various program such as country music band, dancing, auction, and delicious dinner. 7 members from Takarazuka club attended and we all enjoyed the fellowship with other club members. Auction was exciting! I was lucky to bid off a couple of things at very reasonable price. We had a great time together. I would like to thank them for their warm hospitality and preparation.





## Message from Give Club,Denmark (IBC Club)

### “ Dear Takarazuka Y’s Men’s Club ”

In Denmark we always hope for a white Christmas. Most years we have wet, dark miserable December days with temperatures around zero Celsius. We have had a hot summer this year and a mild autumn so far. In 2010 however, we had frost and snow since the middle of November. The landscape and our gardens were covered with fine white snow which you can see on our parish church here in Give.

Many people have electric lights on their trees and on the bushes in the garden. At our town square we have a big Christmas tree with beautiful lights on. Advent time is preparation time – time to prepare Christmas, time to receive the Christian merry message Give Y’s Men’s club sends our best wishes to your club members hoping that we can continue the good co- operation between the two clubs even if we are far apart. But E- mail and other modern remedies make communication so much easier nowadays. Our club members Jørgen Ravn, Vita Hyldgård and I were very grateful for the fantastic welcome, we received when we visited you in Japan in 2013 and all the arrangements for us. Your hospitality, your great 25 years anniversary, and the trip to Nara, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Tokyo and the mountains cottage were some of the high lights for us.

We hope that such international relations can contribute to a better understanding between nations and promote a better world. Our Club have felled Christmas trees and made festoons for some churches in our capital Copenhagen. This is to make money for church activities in our area and some international projects. Our club arranges Christmas evening for lone and lonely people in co-operation with our local church. We hope it will be a good evening. We want to wish you and your club members a Merry Christmas and a blessed new year hoping to continue the good relationship between our clubs. Best wishes from Give Y’s Men’s Club’s 30 members and their families.

### Members of Takarazuka Club



( President )

• Kazuyo Sugitani

( Vice President )

• Hiroko Fukuda

• Yumiko Ishida

( Secretary )

• Shigeyuki Wakabayashi

( Treasurer )

• Yuichi Horie

• Akira Yoshida

( Bulletin Ditor )

• Toshiko Takeda

• Waterloo Nagao