



# 希望の鐘 *The Bell of Hope*



The Y's Men's Club of Kawagoe

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## Kawagoe Y's men's Bulletin

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December

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Chartered 1998

President	Goshiro Yamamoto	CP's Theme: "Learn about the past and gain new ideas and knowledge from it. Meet new people for tomorrow!"
Vice President	Atsuko Matsukawa	
Treasurer	Kimiyo Yoshida	IP Ulrik Lauridsen (Denmark)
Secretary	Katsusaburo Yoshino	Theme: "Let Your Light Shine"
		AP Keiko Tonegawa (Kawagoe)
		Theme: "Be the light for change"
		Japan East Regional Director Kohei Yamada (Utsunomiya)
		Theme: "Learn and discover now for the future! For the future, develop confidence and encounter true joy!"
		Kantotobu District Governor Masao Nagao (Chiba West)
		Theme: "YMCA and Y's Collaborate to Aim for Serving the Community!"

### December Scripture

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.  
Matthew 5:9

create peace, not such political rulers, are the 'peacemakers' and the 'sons of God' (plural), which Jesus might be declared. We, too, want to be peacemakers, in a small but not powerless way.

### [December Meeting Report](#)

Miki Oikawa

The Kawagoe Y's Men's Club Christmas Party was held at the Kawagoe YMCA on Saturday, 9th December 2023, from 2 pm to 4 pm. Participants from the Clover class included three junior high school students, one primary school student, Max and Kyoko leaders, Mr. and Mrs. Yoshino, Mrs. Keiko Tonegawa, Mr. Yamamoto, Mrs. Yamazaki, Ms. Yoshida, and me.

The Christmas party started with self-introductions by all participants. Each person introduced what they were "addicted to." Among them, junior high school student S was addicted to a ring with a motif of sweets she got from a gachapon (When you put money in, toys come out.), and everyone was amazed. A wide range of other addictions was also introduced, including tanka poetry, picture writing, decluttering, and going to Disneyland.

Then we played the bingo game that everyone had been waiting for. Once again, each person prepared a present. It was not easy to reach the point of one more to go, and even when they did, it was hard to get a bingo, so everyone was very nervous, but in the end, everyone got a present.

Finally, Mr. Yamamoto introduced a picture book called "The Christmas Story," illustrated with beautiful cut-out pictures. It was a very beautiful

### [December Registration](#)

Participants 7, Attendance 78%

### [Preface](#)

Kawagoe Y's Men's Club President  
Goshiro Yamamoto

「The Peacemakers.」

This year, 2023, will soon be over, and it will be 2024. Looking back this year, what was shocking was the war between Israel and Palestine. The war between Russia and Ukraine, which started last year in 2022, also continues and has no end in sight. It is the same in all wars of all times, but especially in the modern era, the wars are not fought between soldiers, but involve ordinary people, and sick people, children and even babies are being killed. It is really tragic.

Jesus says the blessed are the 'peacemakers' and will be called 'sons of God'. In ancient society, Palestine was under Roman rule in the first century, so 'peacemakers' or 'sons of God' were also titles for Roman emperors. The ordinary people striving to

picture book, that told the story of the birth of Jesus in kind words. The participants were all smiling, and the Christmas party was spent in a friendly atmosphere. This Christmas party was also a good opportunity for bonding. We hope to organize another joint event with the Y's Men's Club and YMCA children next year.

### Saitama YMCA Festival

This year, the event was held on November 23rd(holiday/Thur.) at the Saitama YMCA Tokorozawa Centre and the Child Rearing and Child Raising Centre. Due to the Corona disaster, the event was held for the first time in three years. The parking lot of the Child Rearing and Child Raising Centre, which opened this year, was freed up, and visitors were able to enter directly from Station Road. Also, for the first time, we were able to host a kitchen car, which gave our staff time to deal with visitors. The hand-baked Frankfurt sausages never ran out of people waiting in line.

From the Kawagoe Club, President Yamamoto, Yw. Yamazaki, Ym. Tonegawa (Taro), Ym. Yoshino, and Menette Fujiko Yoshino participated, selling "Forest Coffee" and "Kawagoe Sweet Potato Confectionery," also exhibition and distribution of the "Re-reading of old books" was held.

According to information from the secretariat, the total number of visitors was around 400.



3 Y's donated funds to support the development of Saitama YMCA leaders



Rare, 18 volumes of Tokugawa Ieyasu by Sohachi Yamaoka.



Exhibition of 「Re-reading of old books」



Bingo tournament on the rooftop.(no off-ticket).

### From the International Stage “Keiko’s Monthly Briefing of YMI/ASP”

Int'l Council Member/AP **Keiko Tonegawa**

「Based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. . . .」

Y's Men's Clubs International is described in Article 2.1 of the International Constitution as "a worldwide friendship association of people of all faiths working together, united in mutual understanding and respect, based on the teachings of Jesus Christ." This means that being a Y's Man means being open to what Jesus Christ taught, whether you are a Christian or not, and being mindful to put it into practice. This means that the teaching of Jesus Christ is always a guideline when considering the activities of our clubs.

The International and Asia-Pacific Area have a Christian Emphasis (translated as Christian Understanding) Service Director appointed to

deliver messages and conduct Christian awareness-raising activities from time to time. The International Service Director for CE is Mr Carl Herz Jensen from Denmark, and the Asia-Pacific Area has Mr Naoya Kawakami from the Greater Ishinomaki Club.

We received messages from both of them for Christmas. In particular, Carl's message is an Advent Calendar with a quiz for each day. There are still a few days left to try it out.

We hope you all have a very happy Christmas and New Year.



#### **December 21.**

##### **John 1, 26-27:**

John answered, "I baptize with ?????, but there is one here with you that you don't know about. <sup>27</sup> He is the One who comes after me. I am not good enough to untie the strings of his sandals."

#### **December 22.**

##### **Isaiah 12, 4-5:**

At that time you will say,

"?????? the LORD and worship him.

Tell everyone what he has done and how great he is.

<sup>5</sup> Sing ????? to the LORD, because he has done great things.

Let all the world know what he has done.

#### **December 23.**

##### **2 Corinthians 1, 19-22:**

The Son of God, Jesus Christ, that Silas and Timothy and I preached to you, was not ??? and no. In Christ it has always been ???. <sup>20</sup> The ??? to all of God's promises is in Christ, and through Christ we say ??? to the glory of God. <sup>21</sup> Remember, God is the One who makes you and us strong in Christ. God made us his chosen people. <sup>22</sup> He put his mark on us to show that we are his, and he put his Spirit in our hearts to be a guarantee for all he has promised.

#### **December 24.**

##### **John 3, 27-30:**

John answered, "A man can get only what God gives him. <sup>28</sup> You yourselves heard me say, 'I am not the Christ, but I am the one sent to ?????? the way for him.' <sup>29</sup> The bride belongs only to the bridegroom. But the friend who helps the bridegroom stands by and listens to him. He is thrilled that he gets to hear the bridegroom's voice. In the same way, I am really happy. <sup>30</sup> He must

become greater, and I must become less important.

#### **Christmas Day**

##### **Luke 2, 10-12:**

"Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news that will be a great joy to all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today your Savior was ??? in the town of David. He is Christ, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in pieces of cloth and lying in a feeding box."

(Message from Naoya Kawakami)

October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 is likely to be a day in world history. A massive military operation by Hamas took place from the Gaza Strip in Palestine, resulting in many deaths and kidnappings. And in retaliation, Israel bombed Gaza City badly as an expression of hatred and anger. Attacks from Israel are now escalating.

When faced with such world-historical events, we must be cautious. This is because there is a danger that our words and attitudes will be collected and used as "fuel for war." "Pouring oil on the fire" in this case is directly linked to an increase in casualties. However, to say nothing or to do nothing will only exacerbate the situation. In fact, each and every one of us is involved and trapped in this case - it is most important to recognize this situation as a fact.

We must then look at what is happening, talk about it and find out what we can do. Very importantly, this fight is connected to the "Russian-Ukrainian war." The ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine is perceived by Russia as a "special military operation to wipe out Nazism." And the memory of Nazism is behind Israel's continued horrific attacks that are impeached as 'outrageous' by the conscience of the world. We are now in the midst of a major event that is about to end the 20th century.

On top of this, it is important to bear in mind that this historical event has been "hijacked". There are "Jews" all over the world. These people are now frightened. This is because the military campaign being conducted by the Republic of Israel is extremely cruel. And on the other hand, about 20% of the citizens of the Republic of Israel are Arabs (i.e. Palestinians). Those people must be spending their days breathing in a vortex of immense hatred.

History-defining events always unfold based on the political decisions of "someone". And as if hijacked by that "someone", the people of the country or region are in turmoil. Whether it is the issue of "comfort women" or "Hiroshima and

Nagasaki", we are painfully aware that it has always been the same in our history.

In this context, the YMCA is invaluable." This is because it provides a direct channel to connect with "those who are being hijacked". There are YMCAs in Russia, Ukraine, Palestine, Israel and "between Israel and Palestine." At present, we are being hijacked, so of course we are very inconvenienced. But the channel remains. We can make use of it. I think the first step towards peace can only start from there. Since we have no freedom, we can only take very small, modest steps. But it is a solid step. It is a real step, different in dimension from jumping around in images.

### YMCA Report

#### **【North Kanto Ski Leaders Training】**

Thank you very much for your support and warm words of encouragement for our leadership training.

We are pleased to report that the North Kanto Ski Leaders Training took place last week. Around 45 people from YMCAs in the North Kanto region gathered at the Marunuma Kogen ski resort in Gunma Prefecture for the following purposes:

- ① To have hands-on experience of camping.
- ② To improve their skills as ski instructors.

And from Saitama YMCA, two staff members, five leaders and one instructor participated.



◇Leaders from top left: Osushi Leader, Rex Leader and Yu-chan Leader.

From bottom left, Myu Leader and Natsu Leader  
\*Saitama YMCA Volunteer Leaders

The following is a report from Iwai (Rex leader) who participated.

"Thank you very much for your support. I was excited and nervous because it was all new to me. Still, it was an enjoyable and good experience for me to learn new things and meet leaders, directors, and instructors from YMCAs in other prefectures in skiing, which I love. I will use what I learned at the leadership training at camp so that the children can have fun."

The Y's Men's Club funds were used to purchase ski instruction books. The remaining funds will be

used for independent leader training at the Saitama YMCA.

This year, five programs for regular and special-support-needed skiing and snow play camps will be held. We will strive to make this a place where children can "find and connect" and "improve." We would also like to continue to working with the Y's Men's Clubs, so thank you for your support. Please let us know if you find anything we could have done better.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone involved in this event (Y's Men's Clubs, volunteer leaders, companies involved, graduates, and staff). We look forward to meeting you all.

Thank you very much for your support. (Haruna Kinoshita)

### 【“Everyone, let’s relax, and go slow!” Camp】

From 18<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) to 19<sup>th</sup> (Sun) November, a special needs education overnight camp was held at the Ogawa Genki Plaza.

This time,

- (1) Enjoy a relaxing and leisurely time with friends in the autumn forest.
- (2) Let's do what we can do and power up together with everyone

The program was planned with the aims mentioned above in mind.

The camp was lively, with 15 members and 7 staff/leaders. Although the camp was lively, we were able to develop a program that suited the children's pace in a relaxed manner. As camp is a group activity, there are times when you have to adapt to others, but we believe it is also important to wait and adjust to the children’s pace. In the field activity stamp rally, the children walked around in nature while looking at a map and discussing with their group members which route to take to reach the points.

Camp life involves situations where everyone has to work together, which cannot be done alone. We saw many occasions where we naturally said "thank you" as we all prepared together, sharing the roles of meal preparation, bedtime preparation, carrying luggage, and so on. I would be happy if they could develop a sense of gratitude for things they usually take for granted. Yosuke Hasegawa



### (Editor’s Note)

We bring you the last Bulletin of 2023. In Y's history, this means that six months have passed. I am delighted that we have managed to publish the sixth issue of the 26th year of the Kawagoe Club.

At my age, this is the time of year when we receive postcards that say, "Please excuse me for New Year's greetings due to the mourning period." I regret that the number of such postcards is increasing yearly. My sister-in-law passed away at the beginning of December at the age of 89.

Despite this, it is encouraging to know that many young people gather at the YMCA and study with each other. The Saitama YMCA Festival was also held, with many people participating.

The three Y's Men's Clubs in Saitama Prefecture hold an online early morning prayer meeting on the first day of every month from 7:00 am. I was on duty on December 1<sup>st</sup> and spoke about the "C" of the YMCA. The content was similar to the report of Ms. Keiko Tonegawa, International Council member and Asia Pacific Area President, and I was able to gain a good understanding of it.

I hope you have a good end of the year and a happy new year.

A little early, but A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!(K/Y)