



# 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 Club Bulletin

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President Goshiro Yamamoto CP's Theme: "Learn about the past and gain new ideas  
 Vice President Atsuko Matsukawa and knowledge from it. Meet new people for tomorrow!"  
 Treasurer Kimiyo Yoshida IP Ulrik Lauridsen (Denmark)  
 Secretary Katsusaburo Yoshino Theme: "Let Your Light Shine"

AP Charming Shen (Taiwan)  
 Theme "Elegantly Change with New Era"  
 Japan East Regional Director Shigeyoshi Sato (Kofu 21)  
 Theme: "Let's act now for the future"

Kantotobu District Governor Hirofumi Kudo (Tokyo Bayside)  
 Theme: "We will use new technologies in every direction and place a high value on efficiency. Everything we do is to create premium value and experience."

"If we can do it, we can do it."

"No challenge, No fruit"

### June Scripture

Now when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Suddenly there came from the sky a sound like the rushing of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

Tongues like fire appeared and were distributed to them, and one sat on each of them.

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak.

(Acts 2:1~4)

### [May Attendance \(May 27, 2023\)](#)

Participants 7 rates 78%

### Preface

#### 「Language barriers, going beyond」

Goshiro Yamamoto

I have always felt that there is a language barrier. Francis Xavier is famous as the first missionary to introduce Christianity to Japan in 1549,

However, there were many problems in evangelizing an unknown country like Japan. Among them, the language barrier was a big problem. One of the language-related problems was

the difficulty translating the ultimate existence of the one and only absolute God into Japanese. At first, it was translated as "Dainichi" for missionary work, but people thought he came to propagate a new Buddhism, being confused with the Buddhist Dainichi Nyorai. Next, it was translated as "Deus" from Latin Deus, and then as "Tenshu" as in the name of churches built in Oura and Urakami in the late Edo and Meiji periods. After some twists and turns, the present "God" has been settled.

One of the major achievements of the Christian religion is the translation of the Bible. The Bible was translated into Latin by Hieronymus, into German by Martin Luther, and into Japanese in various forms. This may seem normal, but although Buddhist sutras and the Qur'an (Koran) in Islam have been translated, official religious institutions, temples, and mosques use a language other than modern Japanese. These two religions are still foreign, but even the ancient Japanese Shinto religion prays in a language far removed from modern Japanese, with the words, "Takamanoharani Kamuzumarimasu sumeragamutsukamurogi Kamurominomikotomochite." In this sense, the Bible is unique in that it has been translated into every language and revised many times. Finally, I have met Francis Xavier. I will save that story for the next time.

## [June 2023 Monthly meeting program \(Plan\)](#)

Date: June 24, 2023(Sat) 14:00~16:00

Place : Saitama YMCA Kawagoe Center

Agenda : Discussion of plans and budget for the next year

## [May monthly meeting report](#)

The May meeting had no special plans and focused on discussing the club's future activities and officers' appointments.

The following is a summary of the main items discussed.

1. Club Membership fee for the coming fiscal year.  
It was decided to be 40,000 yen per year.
2. 2024-2025 Kawagoe club executives  
President Taro Tonegawa  
Secretary Katsusaburo Yoshino  
Treasurer Kimiyo Yoshida
3. Kantotobu District Cabinet for 2024-2025  
District Governor Goshiro Yamamoto  
Secretary Teruo Kinugasa  
Treasurer not decided.
4. Budget for the next fiscal year (drafts)  
Approved by a separate sheet  
Organize the disbursements of the Club's Operating Account and the Sweet Potato Charity Funds
5. Kawagoe Club 25th Anniversary  
It was decided to hold a meeting on Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023, as the 25th Anniversary meeting, and the details will be worked out in the future.
6. 26th Japan East Regional Convention on June 3 and 4.  
The organizer permitted us to sell goods, so we decided to sell "sweet potato snacks and Y's Forest Coffee."
7. International Events
  - Asia Pacific Area Convention  
November 3 (Fri.)-5 (Sun.) Hong Kong  
The Super Early Bird registration discount has been postponed until the end of July. Since AP Keiko Tonegawa will be the organizer of this convention, many participants from Kawagoe Club are expected to be there.
  - AYC (Asia Pacific Area Youth Convocation)  
Since Youth Volunteer Leader Makoto Abe wishes to participate in this event to be held in Nepal and the Tokorozawa Club plans to endorse her, the Kawagoe Club has also decided to endorse her and provide financial support accordingly.
8. Saitama YMCA Festival  
Since this year's event is scheduled for

Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> (holiday Saturday) at the Tokorozawa Center, the Kawagoe Club decided to finalize the details in the future with "Re-reading Old Books" and other events.

9. Earth Day in Kawagoe  
The preparatory committee has been formed for this year's event, scheduled for Sunday, October 1, and the Kawagoe Club has decided to participate with the "Re-reading Old Books" and other exhibits. This year, the club plans to utilize a donated tent.
10. Others
  - Confirmation of prospective participants for the Kantotobu District Conference to be held in Funabashi City on Saturday, October 28.
  - December 16 (Sat) Christmas meeting

## [Report on Japan East Regional Convention](#)

**Goshiro Yamamoto**

The 26th Japan East Regional Convention was held at APIO Kofu in Kofu City, Yamanashi Prefecture, on June 3-4, 2023. This Regional Convention was the first time to be held face-to-face in four years due to the Corona Pandemic. Six members of the Kawagoe Club (honorifics omitted), Miki Okawa, Keiko Tonegawa, Taro Tonegawa, Junko Yamazaki, Kimiyo Yoshida, and Goshiro Yamamoto, participated in the event, and the total number of participants was less than 300.

I attended the Delegates' Meeting on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00. The opening event, banner ceremony, and opening ceremony followed in the afternoon. Then, Mr. Kenjiro Ishimaru gave a commemorative lecture. His talk was light-hearted and covered many topics, including mountain climbing, ink painting, and being an author, but time passed quickly. During the speech, I sold goods such as Kawagoe's specialty, sweet potato sweets, and Y's Forest Coffee. All the goods were sold out except for the coffee (beans). Well, I bought a lot of things at the other booths. ....



The dinner started as planned, with a soprano singer who is also a member of the Kofu 21 Club. After that, there were greetings and other remarks, and the time until the toast was a little long.

Anyway, the Kawagoe club members were also seated in separate places this time, as it was meant to be a fellowship event. I was sitting at the same table as Mr. Tamegai (Tokyo Machida Smiling Club). Tamegai-san has ties to Salem, USA, and Pangasinan, Philippines, and he participated in Kawagoe Club meetings several times via Zoom.



There was a hefty rain on June 2, the day before the convention, and I know some members could not come because of that. However, the Kofu 21 Club staff did a wonderful job organizing the event itself, and they were very attentive to the event's details. Next year, we will be in Tokachi. I would definitely like to participate.

[From the International Stage](#)  
["Keiko's Monthly Briefing of YMI/ASP"](#)

[New Y's song]

Asia Pacific Area President-Elect/ICM

Keiko Tonegawa

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Y's Men International, three projects were carried out in the Asia Pacific Area, one of which was the creation of a songbook. The Saitama Club President, Shunichiro Asaba, chaired the committee, and the songbook was distributed to the participants of the 100th anniversary celebration in Taipei in March.

The songbook consists of: Chapter 1: Past Y's Songs, newly created Y's Songs, and songs that exist but are no longer sung; Chapter 2: Songs written and composed by Y's members (including "To You" by Ms. Shima Miyagawa of our DBC Kitakyushu Club); Chapter 3: Representative songs from countries in the Asia Pacific Area; and Chapter 4: Popular songs from around the world.

The YMI of Japan has chosen to commemorate the 100th anniversary with a new poem to the melody of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy," entitled "A Better Place." The lyrics can be found on page 9 of the songbook, up to the 5th verse, but due to space limitations, only the 1st verse is included here. Please try to sing it.

There are a variety of new Y's songs, from originals to dubbed songs, which are very intriguing. "The Y's Way," a variation of the Italian folk song

"Funiculi Funicula," was written by President Asaba.

Romeo Limjin of the Downtown Manila Club in the Philippines contributed several original songs, including "Y's Men with the World," an up-tempo song that is easy to sing and uplifting. Please check out the video on YouTube.

[Y's Men with the World - YouTube](#)

At the recent Japan East Regional Convention dinner party, everyone sang "A Better Place" and "Y's Men with the World" together and had a great time.

I think it would be fun to try a new Y's song at future meetings under the singing guidance of Yw. Atsuko Yamazaki.

A Better Place  
 1. How do we dare?  
 Where should we share?  
 Why could we care? – YMI!  
 Are we daring,  
 Are we sharing,  
 Are we caring. – Why am I?  
 Y's Men daring,  
 Sharing, caring,  
 When the world around we face,  
 Helping others,  
 Sisters, brothers,  
 Make the world a better place!

[YMCA Report](#)

**Kyoko Kawai**

< 50th Anniversary Program: Would you like to participate in an English conversation class for children and elementary school students? ? >

Kawagoe Center opened a "One-Coin Lesson" for children from kindergarten to 6th grade as a part of Saitama YMCA's 50th anniversary project (period: 5/18-7/21). Please see the attached.

You can apply using the form below or at the center.

Application Form for Elementary School Students

<https://forms.gle/hEQVBPalec54m8497>

Kindergartner Application Form

<https://forms.gle/m73v573DEzNaeAAQ6>

If you have siblings or acquaintances, please let them know.

We also offer adult classes. We look forward to your participation.

< A place for YMCA graduates >

"I realized how important the YMCA was to me when I left," and "Thanks to attending the YMCA, I can now make phone calls" - these are the words of a YMCA member who graduated last March. The reasons for attending the YMCA are different, but they are often due to difficulties in

communication, truancy, or other challenges in life. While I am happy to hear these "words," at the same time, I am concerned about whether or not they will be able to manage it when they stop attending the YMCA.

Terminating the After-school Day Care Service (6 to 18 years old) and public services results in arising difficulties after finding a job or going on to higher education. Those diagnosed with developmental disabilities continue to work for an average of 3 years. From this data, we can read that it is difficult to continue working.

Therefore, the YMCA offers a monthly activity called "Up" to give graduates a "place to stay" and a chance to "get better."

In addition to participation, we also provide a place for them to call and ask how they are doing and hear their concerns. Currently, there are 32 enrolled students. The YMCA would like to continue to be involved with them under the slogan, "The YMCA is a lifelong support group.

(Haruna Kinoshita)

<Saitama YMCA Festival will be held on November 23 (Thursday, national holiday) for the first time in 3 years!>

The YMCA Festival, which has not been held due to the CORONA Pandemic, will be held this year. Ms. Kinoshita (Kawagoe) and Ms. Fukada (Tokorozawa) will be responsible for the festival. We will announce the first information in June. We will also hold a membership convention on the same day, so please plan accordingly.

#### (Editor's Note)

We are pleased to publish our last "Bell of Hope" for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. I want to thank all those who took time out of their busy schedules to send us their valuable manuscripts. Due to my hospitalization, we could only publish 11 issues this year. But I will continue to serve as secretary for the next fiscal year, so I will make every effort to publish 12 issues in the next fiscal year. I look forward to your continued cooperation.

I immediately watched and listened to "Y's Men with the World" on YouTube. It was impressive to see everyone singing with joy. Let's sing it at the Kawagoe Club meeting, too.

Saitama YMCA has expanded its Tokorozawa Center and started activities at the Child Rearing and Child Raising Center. The Saitama YMCA Festival, which could not be held due to the Corona Pandemic, is scheduled to be held this year.

Amid such bright news, the war between Russia and Ukraine is worrisome. We pray for an early ceasefire.

(K. Y.)