

# December NEWSLETTER

## Holiday Lunch

As the year draws to a close, we will gather for a special Holiday Luncheon at Tokugawaen Garden, one of Nagoya's most beautiful and tranquil settings. Once the retreat of the Tokugawa family, the garden features winding paths, a shimmering pond, and seasonal landscapes that capture the essence of Japanese beauty and harmony.

Together, we'll reflect on a year filled with community, cultural exchange, and shared experiences that have brought warmth and connection. This festive occasion will be a lovely opportunity to embrace the spirit of the season, enjoy exquisite cuisine, and celebrate the bonds we've built in such a serene and historic setting.

**Exclusive to Members Who Have RSVP'd:**

**Friday, December 5th, 2025**

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Registration begins at 10:30 a.m.

**Location:**

**Garden Restaurant Tokugawaen**  
1001 Tokugawa-cho, Higashi-ku,  
Nagoya, Aichi 461-0023



# December

**CCEA** | CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE ASSOCIATION

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <b>Book Club</b>	2	3	4	5 <b>Holiday Lunch</b>	6
7	8	9 <b>Zumba</b>	10	11 <b>Yamato-e</b>	12 <b>CCEA Board Meeting</b>	13
14	15	16	17 <b>Restaurant Hunters</b>	18	19 <b>Yamato-e</b>	20
21	22 <b>Global Bites</b>	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

December in Japan glows with dazzling illuminations and cheerful Christmas decorations, even though the holiday isn't traditionally religious. Friends and families enjoy lighthearted customs like sharing KFC dinners or indulging in a fluffy Christmas cake, but the true heart of the season is preparing for the New Year. As December ends, households take part in ōsōji (a deep cleaning to welcome a fresh start), adorn entrances with kadomatsu made of pine and bamboo, and look forward to hatsumōde, the first shrine visit of the year to pray for health and happiness.

 **SAVE THE DATE**

## Upcoming General Meetings

Feb 6th

Welcome Back!  
Introduction to CCEA



Vida Cater- Dec. 2nd  
Hiroko Onishi- Dec. 5th  
Pennie Little- Dec. 7th  
Yukiko Ochiai- Dec. 9th  
Hannah Woods- Dec. 13th  
Amy Peacock- Dec. 29th  
Anwen Clark- Dec. 31st

Mallory Harris- Jan. 23rd  
Gwyn Wilson- Jan. 31st

# Member Spotlight



## Naomi Hasegawa

Hello! I'm Naomi Hasegawa. I've been a member of CCEA since 2019. I'm a catering staff at CCEA now. I was born and raised in Nagoya and have lived in the same house ever since. There are many things I love, but one of them is hiking. I go to the mountains once a week. In Japan, we have 4 seasons, so it's really fun to be out in nature. I also like traveling, so I often go to mountains overseas. Every summer I go to Himalayas and Karakoram in Pakistan. My parents also loved mountains and traveling, so I took them to the European Alps many times. I currently live with my 89-year-old mother whose memory device is broken. I have less free time now, so I'm really enjoying CCEA activities. I'll use my love of baking to liven up CCEA.

Are you ready to launch an impactful new group? Contact us for more details on turning your ideas into action!

Email: [Nagoyaccea@gmail.com](mailto:Nagoyaccea@gmail.com)

## Interest Group Directory

### Art Club

Shuuko Adachi  
[shuukosaku@gmail.com](mailto:shuukosaku@gmail.com)

### Arts & Craft

Natasha Medella  
[natashamedella@gmail.com](mailto:natashamedella@gmail.com)

### Day Trips

Yenling Chou Sato  
[kenyachou321@gmail.com](mailto:kenyachou321@gmail.com)

Manisha Kundu-Nagata  
[manisha.kundu@gmail.com](mailto:manisha.kundu@gmail.com)

### Hiking & Walking

Yenling Chou Sato  
[kenyachou321@gmail.com](mailto:kenyachou321@gmail.com)

Sofie Franzén  
[saefranzen@gmail.com](mailto:saefranzen@gmail.com)

### Language Exchange

Chihiro Okuno  
[stepupchihiroo@gmail.com](mailto:stepupchihiroo@gmail.com)

Sofie Franzén  
[saefranzen@gmail.com](mailto:saefranzen@gmail.com)

### Restaurant Hunters

Samantha Brunner  
[Samnkoon@gmail.com](mailto:Samnkoon@gmail.com)

### Global Bites

Samantha Brunner  
[Samnkoon@gmail.com](mailto:Samnkoon@gmail.com)

### Ikebana & Calligraphy

Mia Kojima  
[mia.kojima@icloud.com](mailto:mia.kojima@icloud.com)

### Pilates

Misako Tamimoto  
[lodgemigreens@hotmail.com](mailto:lodgemigreens@hotmail.com)

### Yamato-e

Yoko Kodera  
[yokoyamatoe@i.softbank.jp](mailto:yokoyamatoe@i.softbank.jp)

### Book Club

Helen Saito  
[lanisaito@gmail.com](mailto:lanisaito@gmail.com)

Shuuko Adachi  
[shuukosaku@gmail.com](mailto:shuukosaku@gmail.com)

### Happy Hour Hunters

Gwyn Wilson  
[shadow.frau@gmail.com](mailto:shadow.frau@gmail.com)

### Kimekomi

Courteneby Woods  
[cwoods319@gmail.com](mailto:cwoods319@gmail.com)

### Photography

Chihiro Okuno  
[stepupchihiroo@gmail.com](mailto:stepupchihiroo@gmail.com)

### Zumba

Ashley Conner  
[ashleyvalencia\\_3@yahoo.com](mailto:ashleyvalencia_3@yahoo.com)

## 2025 Board Members

**President:**  
Manisha Kundu-Nagata

**Vice President:**  
Chihiro Okuno

**Program Coordinators:**  
Fumika Kusano  
Sofie Franzén  
Takeno Matsuda (Supporting)

**Membership Coordinators:**  
Takeno Matsuda  
Gwyn Wilson

**Financial Coordinators:**  
Sakiko Kato

**Catering Coordinators:**  
Naomi Hasegawa

**Marketing Coordinators:**  
Samantha Brunner

**Administrator:**  
Gwyn Wilson

**Recruitment Coordinators:**  
Vacant- Look for new members , welcome guests  
EN/JP

Are you interested in becoming a board member? Please contact us for more information!

[nagoyaccea@gmail.com](mailto:nagoyaccea@gmail.com)



Manisha Kundu-Nagata  
President



Chihiro Okuno  
Vice President



Gwyn Wilson  
Membership



Takeno Matsuda  
Membership



Fumika Kusano  
Programs



Sofie Franzén  
Programs



Sakiko Kato  
Finance



Wetty Tokuhisa  
Supporting



Samantha Brunner  
Marketing



Naomi Hasegawa  
Catering



## 🌟 Holiday Greetings from the CCEA Board 🌟

As the year comes to an end, we reflect with gratitude on the joy and community that has filled 2025. From inspiring gatherings and lively discussions to creative workshops and shared meals, every moment together has strengthened the ties that make the CCEA so special.

Through laughter, learning, and the celebration of our diverse backgrounds, we've built connections that remind us how meaningful it is to come together across cultures. Each of you has contributed to this spirit of understanding and warmth, making our group so special.

As we embrace the holiday season, we wish you peace, happiness, and time to cherish with those you love. May your days be filled with comfort, kindness, and the glow of shared joy.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are excited for new adventures and more opportunities to learn, grow, and celebrate together. Here's to another wonderful year of connection and discovery! 🌎 ❤️ ✨

**With warmest wishes,**  
*The CCEA Board*

