

U.F.R.A. NEWS

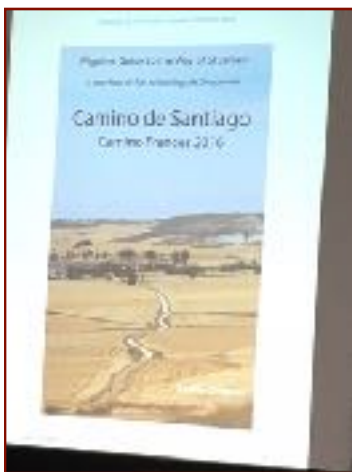
Happy Holidays from the Urayasu Foreign Residents Association

If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. – African Proverb

Please enjoy the memories of where we went together in 2017!



In February, the **Spring Festival** brought warmth to a winter's evening with UFRA's celebration of the Lunar New Year. It was an evening made lively and fun with a pot luck feast, a performance of Chinese songs by singer/songwriter, Maki, as well as games and a raffle. Thanks again to Takako Ueda and her team for organizing the event.



In March, Liz and Makoto Fuse presented UFRA's **Our World Today** talk. They shared their experience of walking 800 km across northern Spain along the ancient pilgrimage route, the Camino de Santiago. Their stories and photos of churches and inns, tapas and vinos, sore feet and new friends, inspired all of us to dream of the adventures that lay yet ahead.



In May, the UFRA committee held its **annual meeting** open to all members and friends. Rumi Kodama and Tess Yoshioka joined the committee as Activity Coordinator and PR Officer, respectively. Continuing are Patrizia Hayashi, Chairperson; Lal Sawmi Lian, Vice Chairperson; Yoonsue Mannaga, Secretary; Takako Ueda, Treasurer; Gerald Wright, Editor; Mika Otsuka, Monika Furuhashi, Activity Coordinators; Naho Kuroda, Cultural Liaison. Rabinder Malik, Krystyna Hirayama and Monika Kamiya continue as advisors.



Also in March, we enjoyed the second iteration of **Afternoon Tea... & Wine**. In a "blind tasting," organized by Gerald Wright, participants used their senses and deductive faculties to identify grape varieties and countries of origin. Not many were all that accurate - but everyone had fun trying!

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Workshops! In June, Kawaguchi-sensei led a **calligraphy workshop!** Another successful event was the **Korean Cooking Workshop**, organized by Yoonsue Mannaga and Mika Ohtsuka held in October. (Not pictured)



In September, Monika Furuhata and her team organized **Indonesian Culture Day** at the Urayasu Bunka Kaikan. Over 150 attendees enjoyed a lecture on “Indonesia Today”; a demonstration of Pencak Silat, an Indonesian martial art; traditional Balinese, Javanese and Batak dances and songs as well as a performance by an Angklung music ensemble; and a buffet of home-made dishes and sweets! A raffle raised ¥80,000 for Yayasan Sayap Ibu, an Indonesian organization for disabled children.



In November, UFRA participated in the city’s **Global Festa** with a charity bake sale and by sponsoring a performance of Thai classical music and dance by students from Kanda University of International Studies. Despite the cold and rain, the dancers performed beautifully, and we raised ¥57,000 for Kiraria, a local organization that supports citizens with disabilities. On the evening of the same day, the annual **UFRA Art Exhibition** was held at the Wave Gallery. It was a great chance for all of us to see the calligraphy by Kawaguchi-sensei and his students as well as paintings by Mimi Dhar and her students.



In December, UFRA held a **Christmas Party** at the Urayasu Brighton Hotel. While the new Urayasu mayor was called away at the last moment, 60 participants, including Seaside Lions Club members and VIP’s, enjoyed the evening together. Following a toast, we sat down to enjoy a delicious feast and to listen to lovely music by the band Wee Dram, who played Christmas songs and other tunes. Even without a dance floor, people got up to dance between the tables! (Reported by Monika Furuhata)
Please join us for another year of good times with friends, new and old, in 2018! Note that there will be no newsletter in January.