

Volcano

May, 2000 The bi-monthly newsletter of *Active Line*. Volume 3, Issue 3

**Think globally;
Act locally**

What does *Active Line* mean?

Active Line is a non-political, non-religious, non-profit organization that is actively seeking to form lines of communication with citizens of the world through volunteer activities. *Active Line* wishes to set itself apart from other "friendship" organizations by making efforts to improve the attitudes of Japanese nationals toward resident foreign people in Japan. As of May 1, 2000 there were approximately 5,570 people with different languages and cultures living in Hachioji. This simple fact suggests that creating an open world society in which everyone lives in harmony, is becoming increasingly important in the Hachioji area. The goal of *Active Line* is to think globally and act locally. *Active Line* would like to broaden its vision. We would like to see ourselves as members of an international community, not a "closed" local society. *Active Line* wants to help develop the Hachioji area from a global perspective.

Cultural Diversity Festival



The 8th annual "We're Different: That's Great" cultural diversity festival was held on Sunday, May 28th from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Hachioji City Hall north river bank. *Active Line* sponsored two booths. The first was a free consulting corner for foreign people with the help of Mr. Siego Tanaka, licensed immigration specialist with the Japan Immigration Center and Ms. Atsuko Akiyama, professional therapist with the Izumi Therapist Association. At the second booth, with the cooperation of Ms. Koh Sun Bun from Taiwan and Ms. Mayuree Mizukoshi from Thailand, *Active Line* sold boiled eggs in oolong tea, boiled gyoza (spiced minced pork wrapped in a small pancake), and colorful Thai-style special occasion desserts. All three items sold out. This year marks *Active Line's* fourth year of participation in the Festival. It's become an increasingly larger project thanks to the help of many, including Manfred from Germany and Andrew from the United States. *Active Line* expresses its hearty appreciation to all that

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Life Stories: "Learning about Diversity with Children"

By: Keiko Hirashima

Once on the bus driving out of Portland Airport, we came out to a wide three-lane road. The road to Albany seemed to run on forever. We enjoyed the picturesque scenery from the bus window, such as a forest of coniferous trees which grew straight up to the sky, fields neatly prepared after harvest, and the brilliant reds and yellows of autumn leaves, all in harmony. We had heard earlier that the temperature in Seattle was only five degrees Celsius, but the breeze in Albany was quite pleasant. Mr. Monson, principal of the Liberty Elementary School, and Ms. Attebery came out to meet us with smiling faces that felt as warm as spring. I took a deep breath, inhaling the smell of the plentiful earth and basking in the autumn sun, and thought toward the eight days ahead of us with a mixture of hope and anxiety.

I heard that there is a system in which a bride-to-be can register a brand of tableware she likes with local stores and people can then give gifts of that brand of tableware at the wedding. This system struck me because of its typical American pragmatism: rather than giving a material gift which the recipient may not like, allow the recipient to pick out her own gift. They also say that Japanese tableware is becoming popular in America lately; its delicate making and original coloring seem to be highly valued. (Editor's Note: It's called a "bridal registry" and is used for other items too, such as bed linens and towels)

By Sunday afternoon my anxiety was beginning to fade away, as the students were growing accustomed to their host families. As I was looking at the kiwi fruits growing in a garden across the street from the Atteberys' house, a lady named Joan who happened to pass by invited me to tea. She said she used to work for the U.S. Air Force and had lived in Japan as a teacher for the school on the base. There was a hanging scroll of *sumie*, a black and white painting, which she probably got during her stay in Japan, and a picture scroll of part of "The Story of Genji" on the wall. Their house, with an impressive columnar structure, was built completely by her husband, Garvin, over the course of six years. He planted trees one by one on their site and even built a bridge over a private stream at the outskirts of the spacious garden. In the kitchen, we enjoyed a big cake covered with thick whipped cream and coffee in a cup made in Japan. "This cup is very handy," said Joanne, treating it with great care.

In Oregon, Japanese pottery has become quite popular. Some people make *shigaraki* or *bizen* on their own after self-studying; other people save money for going to Japan to study Japanese pottery techniques. The uniqueness of Japanese pottery may mix with American and other styles, and become its own distinct style in the future. This is one reason why it is important for us to understand our traditional culture and introduce it to people from different backgrounds. And I believe that cultural awareness begins with knowing oneself.

(Editor's Note: This article is an excerpt from the author's essay,



Opinion: “Japanese TV Programs Are Interesting, but...”

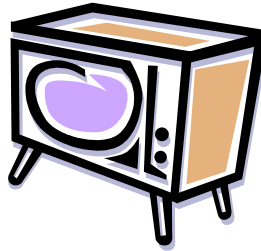
By: Chuo Jun Chul

Hello! My name is Chuo Jun Chul. I came to Japan from Korea two years ago. Today, I would like to talk about Japanese TV programs, which taught me what life in Japan is like.

When I came to Japan, I had no knowledge of Japanese life. It is known that watching TV is the easiest way to learn the language of a foreign country. The same may be said for gaining knowledge of the culture, customs, local affairs and economy of a country. When I come across a Japanese word I don't know, I always look it up in a dictionary, although this takes time. In fact, this is one of the good points of TV; since all of my friends have TV sets, I was able to pick up a lot of the language without having to attend expensive Japanese classes. I even went so far as to throw away a 12-inch set a friend gave to me to buy a new 28-inch wide screen set. However, as I have been watching TV, I have found some things difficult to understand.

Shortly after coming to Japan, I saw a televised press conference; although I could not understand the content, I got the impression that the Japanese like press conferences. For example, an artist will give a press conference upon getting engaged, another press conference upon getting married, again at the hospital holding a newborn baby, and if they divorce, yet another. In another case, a famous personality met with the press to talk tearfully about their recent divorce. Not long after, the same person held another press conference to announce their engagement to someone else. I have to wonder if matters such as these are worthy of being the subjects of press conferences. In Korea, these matters are covered by magazines, while press conferences are reserved for occasions such as public announcements on governmental issues. There are certainly fewer press conferences in Korea than in Japan.

I have noticed other things as well; for example, when someone is arrested under suspicion of a crime, TV broadcasts sensationally show reporters investigating cases as if they themselves were the police. There are also programs in which money is involved; for example, a person might get a million yen for eating a certain quantity of sushi, or three million yen for correctly answering a question. I am concerned about how these programs affect their audiences. I understand the tendency of TV stations to produce sensational programs, since they are in competition for viewership; but audiences who become accustomed to such programs will desire more of the same, leading to an unstoppable escalation. TV programs may even alter public opinion or change the way of thinking of 130 million people. I hope that TV program producers will become aware of their influence and create more sound programming, and that both producers and viewers will exert self-control in order to bring about more enjoyable programming.





Checkmark

1. Learn Japanese—Free private and small group lessons with volunteer teachers. Please contact Ikuko Nakazaki in Japanese/English at 0426-66-1184 for more information.

2. Active Line Meetings—Saturdays, July 16 and September 17, 2000. 2:00 PM. Hachioji Rosei Kaikan lobby. (5-minute walk from Keio-Hachioji station) For a map, contact Yumiko Sato in English or Japanese at Phone/FAX: 0426-68-5208. Everyone is welcome!

(Dear Hanako-san continued) **4. Bathing**—To get used to the hot water, sit on the edge with/without your feet in and drench yourself using the “face towel”. When ready, immerse yourself into the bath and stay in as long as you wish. If you get overheated, sit out on the edge for a while. In some facilities, you may proceed to more baths outside or to coed baths. Don’t be surprised to see small boys in the women’s section with their mothers/older sisters. After rinsing your body of the bath minerals in the showering area and putting on your *yukata*, (cotton robe), or street clothes, grab a cold drink from vending machine, take a nap on *tatami* (woven floor mats) or enjoy the food you ordered at the building’s little restaurant.

(A chat with Mr. Zhou Uo, who came to Japan for research from Beijing University, about life in Japan with his family.)

Q: When did you come to Japan?

A: I came here in May 1998, but my wife and daughter came in February 1999.

Q: Has your family adjusted to life in Japan?

A: My daughter does to nursery school. She seems to be happy there, but seems lonely at home. Children in China usually play outdoors with friends because they have no brothers and sisters. However, here in Japan children play together with their brothers and sisters in the house.

Q: Does your wife have a job?

A: She is working on research she performed in China, so she stays at home.

Q: Did you find it difficult getting a working visa?

A: It is very difficult to get one while living in China, but I’ve heard it’s easier to get one after coming to Japan. The wife of a friend of mine was able to get one.

Q: Does your wife care for cooking?

A: No, she doesn’t. Chinese people think of cooking much like medicine; eating healthy is very important, and few people like to spend time cooking just for something that tastes good.

Q: If you have any other thoughts, please feel free to tell us.

A: I think the Chinese lifestyle bears a close resemblance to that of Americans. Japanese seem to have their own lifestyle, but their bad behavior reminds me of Americans.

Chit Chat Cafe



Do you have a question for Hanako-san? Would you like to express your opinion? Have a personal story to share? Please send contributions to the address printed on the back page of the newsletter in either Japanese or English. All are subject to space availability. Contributors may remain anonymous in Volcano if so stated, but name and phone number will be retained in the editors' files.

「花子さん」に質問がありませんか？あなたの意見を発表してみませんか？分かち合いたい経験はありませんか？

このニュースレターの裏面に記載されている住所までご投稿をお願いします。日本語でも英語でも結構です。

掲載は全て紙面の都合によります。なお、投稿される時は、必ずお名前とお電話番号を記入して下さい。ご希望があれば、紙面上では匿名とさせて頂きます。

Dear Hanako-san

Question: I found your tips on Japanese baths in the last issue very helpful. Have any more?

Answer: The last issue highlighted general information, terminology, and supplies. The most important rule to remember is to clean your body in a showering area first, then soak your body in a bathing area last. Consider renting the American movie, "Mr. Baseball", with actor Tom Selleck, for a comical look at his first encounters with Japanese customs, including the bath. Below, find more detailed how to's.

1. **Cost**—Payment occurs at the entrance to the building and ranges from 400-1000 yen generally for a public bath, depending on how fancy the place is, whether there's a time limit, whether they provide extras like "face towels", cotton robes, and hair dryers, and if a set meal or bowl of noodles is included. In most cases, you're allowed to keep the face towel; it's free advertising. Robes are returned.

2. **Extras**—Go to the bathroom prior to undressing. Observe what others do and follow suit with "slipper etiquette" and locker keys. Be sure to be tidy and don't leave things on the floor. Acquainting yourself with typical Japanese bathroom facet controls will save embarrassment at the bath when the shower head turns on instead of the tap. Pretend you're camping; conserve water/turn the water off when not using.

3. **Showering**—While trying to cover your private areas with a skinny "face towel", carrying your little basket of toiletries, and opening the door, proceed to the showering area just outside the clothes changing area/locker room and claim a water facet amongst many in a row. Set your things down and grab a water pail and stool from a designated stack found near-by. SQUAT NEXT TO your stool and using your pail, dump water over your self to get used to the water and wet yourself. Soap genital and butt area, and rinse self AND STOOL. THEN, sit on stool and rid your body of oils, lotion, hair sprays, etc. like you normally would. Keep in mind the shower head function of the facet is generally used for hair washing only and you need to remain seated. Shaving is not common, but may be done, especially if your vacationing or traveling. The "face towel" is NOT to be used in the showering area. Gather supplies, rinse stool/pail and return them to the stack. Depending, take your toiletries back to the locker room or put them off to the side out of the way. If there is no showering area, then the same procedures are followed, but you cleanse yourself next to the soaking bath, using the hot water and a water dipper/pail. Pay attention to not get any

花子さんへ

Q: この前の号の温泉 / 銭湯についてのアドバイスはとても役に立ちました。他に何かありませんか？

A: この前は一般的な事、用語、必需品について話しました。最も大切な決まりは最初に洗い場で身体をきれいにしてから浴槽に入るということです。トム・セレック主演のアメリカ映画「ミスター・ベースボール」は、お風呂など日本の習慣に初めて触れた様子をコミカルに描いているので、借りてみてはどうですか。次にもっと詳しいことをお話しましょう。

1. **費用** 支払いは入り口で済ませます。公衆浴場で普通400円から1000円ですが、そこがどんなに素敵か、時間制限があるか、フェイスタオル・浴衣・ヘアドライヤーのような別料金のあるか、食事、定食があるいは麺類が含まれているか等によって違います。大抵、フェイスタオルは無料の宣伝用ですので持って帰れますが、浴衣は返却します。

2. **追加説明** 浴室へは服を着ていきます。スリッパの使い方、ロッカーの鍵については他の人達が見ることを見て真似します。持ち物はきちんと片付け、床に置いたままにしないようにして下さい。日本の風呂の蛇口の使い方を知らないと蛇口からではなくシャワーヘッドから水が出て慌ててしまうでしょう。キャンプをしているつもりで水を大切に、使わない時は止めておくようにして下さい。

3. **洗う** 薄いフェイスタオルで身体を隠しながら洗面用具を持ってドアを開け、脱衣場またはロッカールームのすぐ隣の風呂場へ進み、沢山並んでいる蛇口の一つ確保して下さい。荷物を置いて、桶と腰掛けを積み上げてある所から取ってきます。腰掛けの横にしゃがみ、お湯に慣れ身体を濡らすため、桶でお湯をザッとかけます。お尻などを洗って腰掛けも一緒にゆすぎます。それから、腰掛けに座ってあなたがいつもするように、オイル・ローション・ヘアスプレー等を落とします。シャワーヘッドはふつう洗髪時だけ、座ったまま使います。髭剃りは余りしませんが、してもいいでしょう。特に休暇中や旅行中には、フェイスタオルは洗い場では使いません。持ってきた物をまとめて、腰掛けと桶をゆすいで元に戻します。洗面用具はロッカールームへ戻すか、邪魔にならないように脇に置きます。洗い場がなければ手順は同じですが、浴槽のすぐ横で桶かひしゃくを使ってお湯で身体を洗います。シャンプーや石鹸が浴槽に入らないように注意して下さい。

(4 ページへ続く)



Information Briefs— “Kenko Land”

<p>Nagayama Kenko Land 1-3-4 Nagayama Tama-shi, Tokyo Phone: 042-337-1126 Open: 9:00AM-8:00AM (next day) Year-round Fee: Adults 2040/Child 1020 yen</p>	
<p>Tama Teck Natural Hot Spring-Kua Garden 5-22-1 Hodokubo Hino-shi, Tokyo Phone: 042-591-0888 Open: 10:00AM-11:00PM Year-round Fee: Adults 1890/Child 1450 Toddlers 600 yen</p>	
<p>Furopi 1466-1 Hazama-cho Hachioji-shi, Tokyo Phone: 0426-65-4126 Open: 10:00AM-8:00AM (next day) Year-round Fee: Adults 2340/Child 1320 yen</p>	
<p>Supa Akishima 3-8-1 Tanaka-cho Akishima-shi, Tokyo Phone: 042-546-1126 Open: 9:00AM-8:00AM (next day) Year-round Fee: Adults 2040/Child 1020</p>	

Weekdays, Adult discount to 1020 yen

Editor’s Note: The above leisure facilities for “maintaining your health”, feature baths or hot springs, as well as *karaoke* (lip syncing) and meals. There is an extra charge for *karaoke* and meals.

Why the name “Volcano”?

Volcano means “kazan” in Japanese. The reason why we chose the name “Volcano” for our newsletter is because we believe people’s opinions, ideas, and feelings should not lie “dormant” or become “inactive” like volcanoes. “Magma” exists in everyone and it needs to voluntarily erupt once in a while to soothe one’s soul.



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- ◆ With your questions, opinions, stories, suggestions, and ideas
 - ◆ For information about membership and newsletter subscriptions
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Join Us!

- ◆ Help gather resources and exchange information with other organizations
- ◆ As a Korean, Chinese, Spanish, Japanese, etc., volunteer teacher/ translator/interpreter
- ◆ In planning, executing, or assisting with events
- ◆ As a computer assistant—Microsoft Windows 95 needed, with Japanese/English capabilities
- ◆ With the publishing and mailing of the newsletter
- ◆ Etc., make your own proposal

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