

サーバス東海北陸支部 会報

2019年12月18日

日本サーバス東海北陸支部長

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サーバス東海北陸支部の皆様

いよいよ2019年も押し詰まっています。皆様におかれましては師走は何かとお忙しい事と思います。東海北陸支部の支部長として2年目を過ぎ、どうにか最低限のことはできたのではないかと思います。皆様のご意見を反映したり、ご要望にお応えすることまでは至らなかったのではと反省しております。ほかの支部役員に助けられて、ここまでやってきておりますが、来年度もどうぞよろしくお願いいたします。

今回の支部会報は年度末のお願いがいくつかございますのでどうか最後までお読みいただけますようよろしくお願いいたします。

1. サーバス会費2020年度のお支払いのお願い。

まず最初に会費のお願いで申しわけありませんが、2020年度のサーバス会費3000円を2月末日(29日は土曜日なので28日)までに下の口座に振り込みをお願いいたします。1月18日(後程詳しい日程を載せています)の新年支部会に出席の方はその時にお持ちください。

2020年からサーバス東海北陸支部への振込は

ゆうちょ銀行から振り込む場合

記号 //

番号////////

他銀行、ネットから振り込む場合

店番// 預金種目、普通預金 口座番号////////

をお願いします。

以前紹介した//////////は通知に1回200円かかるため使用しないことにします。

2. 会計報告

省略

*スタンプの使用枚数 2019年度8枚(2018年度は10枚でした)
皆さんどんどんサーバス旅行に行ってください!!

3. トラベラー受け入れの報告

2019年6月までは一度報告を受けておりますので、それ以降年末までのトラベラー受け入れの報告をお願いします。1. 名前、性別 人数 2. 国名 3. 受け入れ期間 4. 簡単な感想を

nerudasuwa@yahoo.co.jpまでメールで年末までをお願いいたします。

3. 1月サーバス東海北陸支部、1月例会のお知らせ

新年はTさんの企画で小牧市で行う予定です。

日時：1月18日(土) 昼1時から

場所：小牧市学び創造館 (通称 ラピオ) 4階 多目的室2

ラピオの1階にス～パ～がありますので自分の好きなランチを買って集合して下さい。

もちろん、ここ以外でも大丈夫。飲み物も持参をお願いします。アルコールはここでは禁止です。

*車で来られる方は地下駐車場があります。駐車場に入庫するとき駐車券が出ますので買い物時に印鑑を押してもらって無料になります。詳しいアクセスは小牧市学び創造館で検索して下さい。

*電車の方は、名鉄小牧線、小牧駅で降りて下さい。会場まで徒歩5分ぐらい。

小牧駅の改札を出て左側の階段を上がって下さい。駅の外に出たら左に進むと広い道にあたりますので、そこを右に曲がり直進。2つ目の信号を渡った所にラピオの建物がどかっとあります。

議題：

① 2020年度会費の徴収

各自食べながら

② 自己紹介と今年度の振り返り、来年の抱負など

- ③ 2021 年度本部と支部の役員の内
- ④ 次回は桜の時期に三重県津市で行いたいと思っています。できれば今度は日曜日に行いたいと思っています。会の後、津市の桜の名所を車で案内したいと思っています。
- ⑤ サーバス旅行や受け入れ体験の交流、サーバスへの Q & A

会議の後、徒歩 10 分くらいの所にあるメナード美術館（割引券あり）か徒歩 15 分くらいの所にある小牧山歴史館を散策した後、「ヤオカネ」という小牧駅近くの青果店がやっているカフェで、一服しましょう！フルーツパフェなどおいしいそうです！

*** 1 月の支部会の参加、不参加のご返事を 1 月 10 日までに支部長までご連絡ください。**

4. 東海北陸支部へも旅行された H&S ご夫妻の日本サーバスへの感謝のメールが来ています。日本を 3 か月にわたって旅行し、サーバスのお宅でいろいろ歓待を受けたり、感動した出来事などがつつられています。うちも受け入れましたが、大変気持ちのいいご夫妻で、あとで、私たちに対する感謝のビデオも送ってくれました。英語版ですが、ぜひお読みください。

Learn to understand Japan with Servas



From September 11th to December 3rd, I traveled with my husband through Japan. We had long planned to get to know this fascinating country, but so far we had not been there because we expected linguistic problems and a very different culture. We were a bit afraid, even though we had

already explored numerous countries on different continents as backpackers and on road trips. If one reads travel reports about Japan, there are repeatedly mentioned, for us strange peculiarities, such as the extra flaps for the toilet visit, the multi-functional toilet with bidet, the warmed toilet seats and the background noise to avoid that human noise is to hear for outsiders, as well as the habit of the Japanese to use the same water for a bath as whole family. We tried to inform ourselves well in advance, so as not to step into every faux pas. Since the Japanese have the reputation of not being able to speak a lot of English, or not having the courage to use it, my husband tried to learn Katakana and Hiragana for four months via App Duolingo. Learning Kanjis is a life's work, even for most Japanese and impossible in that short term.

Precisely because the culture is so different and because language problems seemed preprogrammed, we decided to use Servas as often as possible to get behind the scenes and understand the foreign culture better. The pre-planning was quite time-consuming and tedious. If you travel for three months and can't even predict in advance how to travel, because Japan Rail passes are only valid for 1-3 weeks and therefore made no sense for us, it was difficult to say when we would be at different places. I wrote to all eligible hosts as early as June and asked for a visit within a time span that made a visit to the area probable. About half did not respond, some of the mail came back because

something was wrong with the address and some sent a rejection. With those who had promised us to be welcome at a certain period of time, we stayed in mail contact and it finally came to 7 encounters. The effort was definitely worth it, because the hosts we got to know made our trip a wonderful experience that we will never forget. With this travelogue we would like to say thank you once again for all the effort our hosts have made to give us an intense and unforgettable time.

Shortly after our arrival in Tokyo, Rosemarie and Nobu enabled us to attend a religious-traditional festival in which the neighborhood shrine (Mikoshi) was carried on a frame through the residential area. With loud shouts and whistles, attention was drawn to our small procession and on the way there were given refreshments and snacks. We were warmly welcomed by the group and got invited to carry the shrine a part of the way



At Sachiko and Masumi's house in Sendai we were introduced to the peculiarities of the Japanese bath, got an insight into their own company, were able to enjoy the excellent cooking skills of Sachiko and got the tip for a wonderful boat trip in the bay of Matsushima. In the evening, we kept our fingers crossed for the Japanese women's team at the Volleyball World Cup, because Sachiko is a truly contagious fan.

Since we had driven here by train, we decided to rent a car in Sendai for the next two months. This gave us the opportunity to easily get into smaller towns, national parks and to remote Servas hosts. It also allowed us to sleep in our car some nights between our Servas visits. To sleep in a car is common practice in Japan. We were also able to drive to free but remote campsites. Our next hosts were Noriko, Masahiko and little Tsumugi in Fukushima. On the first evening we were invited to attend an event in a community center. It was a dinner party with the opening of a photo exhibition of the big earthquake and tsunami on 11.3.2011, which caused worldwide sad notoriety due to the disaster in the nuclear power plant Daiichi on the coast of Fukushima Prefecture. Photographer Katsumi Hirabashi and publisher Iwao Kawade were there. Katsumi himself was a victim of the quake and now tries to encourage the local people and show how much courage and strength they have proven and what hope can be derived from it. From him we also learned about the project of the gigantic wall, which is 4 meters high and 400km along the coast to hold tsunamis.



In his opinion, no wall can be high or strong enough to withstand these forces of nature. However, this wall destroys the rest of what has remained to the local people: the beautiful nature. We also got to know the project "Paying

forward coffee" that night and enjoyed delicious snacks and live music. The next few days Noriko and Masahiko took excellent care of us and allowed us to spend wonderful hours together in Onsen, at shrines, on a volcano, at a dinner with the other Fukushima Servas host Teruo and at festivities. At the end of our trip, we visited them again when we had to return our car to Sendai.

In Kami, we enjoyed the quiet life away from the cities with our hosts Michiko and Masao, were taken to an apple orchard with delicious apples, learned about the life of the Samurai, talked to Michiko about international student exchanges and learned about Masao's work as a veterinarian specialist for pigs. Once again we could taste the good local cuisine extensively.

After Kami we did not have any Servas contacts for a long time because we did not find any hosts. But we had a whole bunch of tips in the bag from our last hosts. So it was that we explored the north of the main island Honshu so extensively that we decided in Aomori, not to drive to Hokaido, but to visit Honshu very extensively on this trip. On October 12, the typhoon Hagibis raged over Japan, leaving more than 90 dead and immense damage. We experienced live how the warnings got closer and were worried about our newly won friends, some of them waiting for their evacuation on packed suitcases. We ourselves were incredibly lucky to just see heavy rain from our hotel window on the 8th floor in Niigata on the west coast, but faced no danger in our area.

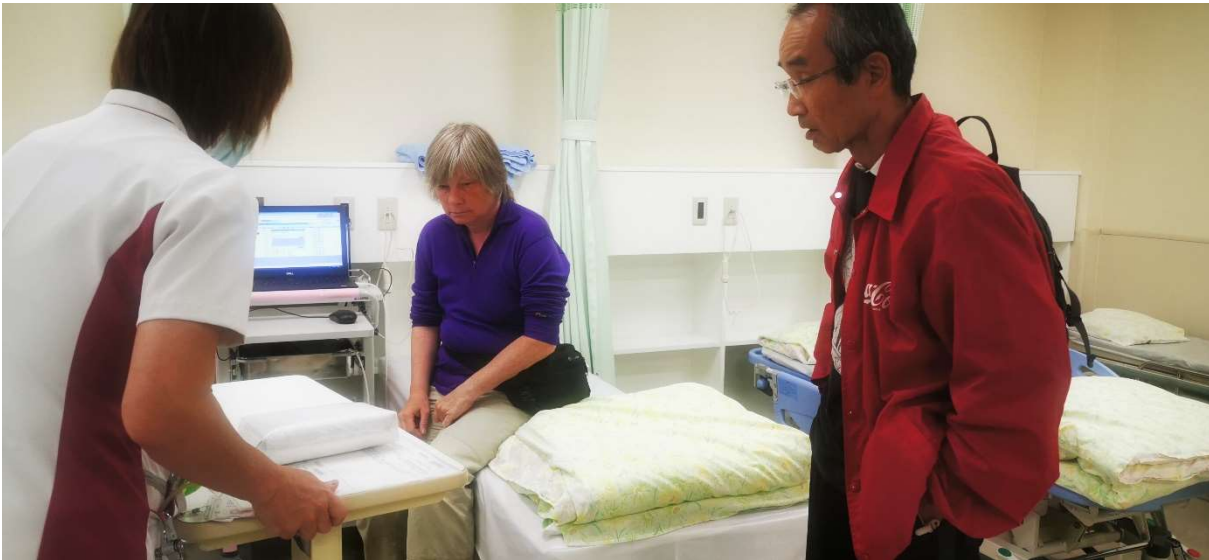
We went on to Tsu in Mie Prefecture, to our hosts Suwako and Hirofumi. Here we were right in the countryside and the two were committed to organic farming. They were even in Kenya for a while and tried to teach the methods there, and it was very exciting to listen to their experiences. Together with



Suwako we visited the Ise shrine, which is something like the Mecca of Japan. We met her old friend and neighbor and she and Suwako dressed me in a kimono and surprised me by giving it to me! That absolutely broke my tongue, which is not common in my life. The generosity in Japan has surprised us everywhere. Even friends of our hosts gave us fruit or other little things again and again, which almost embarrassed us, because except for our hosts we had

packed no presents

After Tsu, our trip to Kyoto took us to Takao and Kiyomi and here again I have to say a special thank you! Not only that the two open their house to many Servas guests and show their great hospitality so that we were allowed to be there with an American and an English couple in a row, they also saved us from a desperate situation! In Kyoto, I got an appendicitis on the weekend before the coronation of the new Emperor. Not only did Takao travel with us to a hospital, which was willing to accept a foreign patient on a weekend, he also translated everything from English into Japanese. We would have helplessly failed here, because even my name and date of birth had to be translated into Japanese! Even Google would certainly have been of no help to us in this situation.



As only an ambulant antibiotic therapy was tried, Takao invited us as a matter of course to live with them for the next three days and drove daily as an interpreter to the hospital. In the end I had to be admitted to the surgery, so at long last we stayed at Kiyomi's and Takao's house for a full fortnight and they took care of us with much effort and love. We tried to thank them in the last few days by cooking dishes from Europe several times, but we know that there is nothing in the world we could pay for what they had done us good.



We also met Yoshio and Setsuko from Otsu in their house who we actually wanted to visit after Kyoto, which was not possible now. They brought with them very delicious homemade bread, because they have a bakery and try to bake German recipes. It really was a blessing, because in Japan there is otherwise only toast bread and similar soft, light bread to buy. Unfortunately, my illness has thrown the other travel plans and Servas visits over, since time was too short and we only came as far as the islets off Kure and not down to Kyushu what made me very sad because I had a very nice contact by mail to Akiko in Nagasaki already. We had to leave this for another trip. We brought our car all the way back to Sendai at the end of November, stopping at many beautiful places like Maebashi and Nikko, which gave us wonderful sights and walks into the colorful autumn forests and views of snow-capped mountains.

We visited our Servas friends in Fukushima again and painted our own "Kokeshis" (Japanese dolls) at a workshop, made toys with Noriko and her friends and took a trip into nature together.



By train we went to Fuji and we enjoyed the view of Fujiyama from a hostel and finally spent two more nights with our first hosts Rosemarie and Nobu in Tokyo. It was like coming home and we had many interesting conversations and made a tunnel tour through the area around Tokyo station due to the bad weather. Once out of the tunnel, we got to know the "Harrods" of Tokyo, the oldest and super



noble shop: "Mitsukoshi".

Many thanks to all our dear Servas friends and also to those who had invited us, but due to time constraints we could not visit anymore.

Bad Harzburg, 7.12.2019

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