

# CCEA

**Cross Cultural  
Exchange Association**

**Issue 5  
2025**

## June NEWSLETTER

### Hula Dance Experience

Join us for a delightful Hula dance experience with the wonderful Itsuko Ando at Meijo Park! If you have a long skirt, we encourage you to wear it, as it adds graceful movement enhancing the beauty of the dance. With the weather permitting, we'll dance barefoot outside to a beautifully choreographed song, embracing the joy of movement and connection.

We'll have tea and water available for everyone, but we'd love if you could bring along a water bottle to keep yourself refreshed and hydrated!

After our dance and meeting, we would like to invite you to join us for lunch at Garb Castello.

Please be sure to check your email to sign up and save your seat!



Coming in September...

### Welcome Back!!

Let's catch up, meet new faces, and reintroduce the interest groups. We will have a small catered lunch and delicious sweet treats!

June Meeting Location:

### Meijo Park-10am

Take exit 2 at Meijokoen Station on the Meijo Line

Our meeting spot is at:

(35.1869867, 136.9015521)



# June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Book Club	3	4	5	6 CCEA General Meeting	7
8	9	10 Kimekomi	11	12 Yamato-e	13 CCEA Board Meeting	14 Ikebana & Calligraphy
15	16 Photography	17 CCEA Day Event	18 Restaurant Hunters	19	20 Yamato-e Happy Hour Hunters	21
22	23 Pilates	24 Day Trip	25	26 Turkish Cooking	27	28
29	30					

Wishing everyone a bright and joyful summer! May your days be filled with fun activities and plenty of lovely moments. Stay safe and enjoy!

## SAVE THE DATE!

### General Meeting Dates

**September 5th** - Welcome Back!  
Reintroduction & Catered Lunch  
**October 3rd** - Kimono Dressing &  
Tea Ceremony  
**November 7th** - Thanksgiving  
Discussion  
**December 5th** - Holiday Lunch



Stephany Miranda- June 6th  
Jean Newman - June 8th  
Samantha Brunner- June 12th  
Kimiko Ogawa- June 17th  
Manisha Kundu- June 19th  
Mie Kojima- June 21st  
Ashley Conner- June 23rd  
Misako Tanimoto- June 26th  
Jenny Loveridge- June 29th

Kendra O'Brien- July 2nd  
Merve Savasci- July 4th  
Nadia Ito- July 6th  
Ayuko Okuda- July 12th  
Sedi Zoghi- July 25th

Wetty Tokuhisa- Aug. 8th  
Cholponai Kyrgyzbaeva- Aug. 14th  
Natasha Medella- Aug. 20th  
Chihiro Okuno- Aug. 31st  
Motoko Kato- Aug. 31st

## Member Spotlight



Hello, I'm Chihiro Okuno.

I grew up in Tajimi and now live in Nagoya with my husband and 11-year-old son.

Discovering Yamato-e led me to join CCEA in 2020. Since then, my life has changed in a wonderful way. Everyone's active and joyful way of living continues to inspire me every day.

I'm naturally very curious and interested in many things, but I'm passionate about making kimono-style tote bag.

I look forward to many more joyful moments with all of you at CCEA!

**Chihiro Okuno**

## 2025 Board Members

### President:

Gwyn Wilson  
Manisha Kundu-Nagata  
(Interim)

### Vice President:

Chihiro Okuno  
Fumika Kusano- Supporting

### Program Coordinators:

Fumika Kusano  
Manisha Kundu-Nagata  
Sofie Franzén  
Takeno Matsuda

### Membership

**Coordinators:**  
Courteney Woods

### Financial Coordinators:

Sakiko Kato- Supporting  
Gwyn Wilson

### Catering Coordinators:

Naomi Hasegawa

### Marketing Coordinators:

Samantha Brunner

### Recruitment Coordinators:

Vacant- Look for new  
members , welcome guests  
EN/JP

### Administrator

Vacant-Vacant - Document  
and database management  
EN/JP

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

nagoyacce@gmail.com

## Club Directory

<b>Art &amp; Book Club</b>  Helen Saito: lanisaito@gmail.com Shuuko Adachi: shuukosaku@gmail.com	<b>Calligraphy &amp; Ikebana</b>  For more information please contact: Ikebana Class CCEA - FB Group nagoyacce@gmail.com	<b>Crochet &amp; Turkish Oya</b>  Omur Certin omurjapan@gmail.com Jean Newman jealo_zemper@yahoo.com
<b>Happy Hour Hunters</b>  Gwyn Wilson: shadow.frau@gmail.com	<b>Hiking &amp; Day Trips</b>  Yenling Chou: kenyachou123@gmail.com  Manisha Kundu-Nagata manisha.kundu@gmail.com	<b>Kimekomi</b>  Courteney Woods cwoods319@gmail.com
<b>Language Exchange</b>  Chihiro Okuno stepupchihiroo@gmail.com	<b>Pilates</b>  Misako Tamimoto: lodgemigreens@hotmail.com	<b>Photography</b>  Chihiro Okuno stepupchihiroo@gmail.com
<b>Restaurant Hunters</b>  Samantha Brunner Samnkoon@gmail.com	<b>Turkish Cooking</b>  Omur Certin: omurjapan@gmail.com	<b>Yamato-e</b>  Yoko Kodera: yokoyamatoe@i.softbank.jp



# CHANGES

coming  
this

# FALL



After five years of leading CCEA, I will be stepping down as President. It hasn't always been easy, but it has been an incredible journey, thanks to your encouragement and support. I admire the strength and passion each of you brings to our group. I'm confident that our next President will build on this energy and spirit.

I am pleased to pass my role as President to Manisha Kundu, who has demonstrated dedication and consideration for our unique membership as an Interest Group leader and Board Member. I believe with her understanding of Japan and international cultures, she is an ideal leader for the organization who will help grow and strengthen bonds and understanding, and build on the foundation that past members have created for us.

I will continue to serve on the board as an advisor and financial coordinator, supporting President Manisha and Vice-President Chihiro as they lead us into 2026.

Thank you,  
Gwyn Wilson



Hello!

As an incoming president, I am honored and excited to lead you into the next chapter of CCEA, Nagoya. I want to express my sincere gratitude to our outgoing president, Gwyn Wilson, and all members for creating a strong foundation, fostering a more inclusive environment, and furthering cross-cultural awareness. Our group's mission of promoting cultural exchange, international understanding, and friendships amongst women of all nationalities remains as vital as ever. I view our group as an ideal space where we can connect, learn, and broaden our perspectives. We have a rich history and accomplishment of hosting successful events, making significant contributions in cultural exchanges, and fostering a positive community. I want to build on these successes by expanding our membership base and strengthening our community partnerships.

I am particularly excited to expand our reach and create new collaborations with the local communities. My focus will also be to deepen our understanding of the cultural aspects of our members from different nationalities and amplify their voices. I will be prioritizing time for the group and I encourage all of you to reach out with your ideas and suggestions.

I look forward to this opportunity to continue the great work of CCEA and hope to further bridge cultural gaps, strengthen our cross-cultural understanding, respect, and friendships.

Thank you,  
Manisha Kundu