袋井市国際交流員活動日記帳



CIR REPORT 1月号

ブラントリー・マイケル 2025 冬

明けましておめでとうございます!

時が経つのは早いですね。2025年がもうやってきました。年末年始は楽しく過ごされましたか?日本ではお正月におせち料理を食べると聞いています。おせち料理は食べられましたか?例えば、「金運アップ」を意味する栗きんとんのように、実はアフリカ系アメリカ人も日本人と同じように、「カラードグリーン」という葉野菜のような、緑色でお金にまつわる縁起のいい食べ物をお正月に食べます。日本ではネット注文とか専門店に行かないと買えないので今年はやめましたが、来年こそ

食べるつもりです!

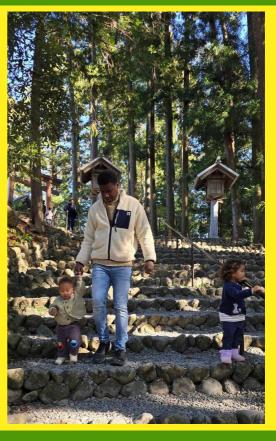












袋井市に来てはじめての年末年始は、日本のおせち料理も自分の文化の料理もできませんでしたが、 職場の先輩の家で、餅つき体験をしました!餅つきには悪戦苦闘しましたが何とかつき上げ、つきた ての熱々のお餅でイチゴ大福づくりにもチャレンジしました。大福はとてもおいしく、家族もお腹も大 満足でした。

最後に、お正月といえば初詣も大切な行事です。私は家族と一緒に浜松市天竜区の秋葉神社に初詣に行きました。人ごみを避けて昼ごろ神社にお参りしました。山に囲まれた神社への道路は、木々と差し込む太陽の光の景色が最高でした。神社では、おみくじとお守りに加えて御朱印帳も買い、当日限定の御朱印をいただきました。希望に満ちた1年のスタートとなりました。

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Fukuroi Coordinator for International Relations Diary



CIR REPORT January

Michael Brantley | Winter 2025

Happy New Year!

Time flies like an arrow, and 2025 is already here. Did you enjoy your New Year's? I hear that in Japan *osechi* is the thing to eat for New Year's. Did you eat osechi? In Japan, *kuri-kinton* is said to increase your financial luck because of its color. In the same way, there is a leafy vegetable called collard greens that African Americans eat at New Year's time. Because collards are green, they are also associated with money and, like Japanese people, we eat them for luck. However, here in Japan you can only get them from a specialty shop or by ordering on the internet, so this year I had to skip them. But next year for sure, I definitely plan on eating them!

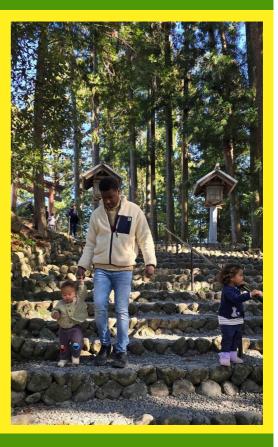
(Collard greens)











This New Year, I didn't cook osechi, or even my own culture's food, but I did experience mochi-making at a senior coworker's house! Making mochi was no easy task, but I pushed through and even tried my hand at using the hot fresh mochi to make *ichigo daifuku*, mochi with a strawberry inside. The mochi was delicious, satisfying my stomach and my family.

Last but not least, *hatsumode* (going to the shrine to make a wish for the new year) is also an important part of New Year's. This year, I did hatsumode with my family at Akiha Shrine over in the Tenryu ward of Hamamatsu City. We went around noonday to beat the crowds. The shrine is surrounded by mountains, and the sunlight through the trees on the way there made for very beautiful scenery. In addition to pulling my fortune and buying protective charms at the shrine, I also bought a temple stamp book, and got a New Year's Day only limited edition stamp. It was a great start to a new year filled with hopes.

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