made for sale in a store. Specialty food products are nice, as long as they don't contain meat, which won't make it through customs. Commercially-packed smoked salmon and fish jerky are ok. If your local products are liquid, such as goats' milk lotion, for example, be sure and pack them in a ziploc bag and don't carry them on the plane if they are larger than 2 oz in size. Put them in your suitcase. There may be other products unique to your area, such as a special tool, kitchen item, etc. No knives or ulus in your carry-on, of course.

If your town has a tourist area, or a section of Wal-Mart or another store that has a tourist department, look for items with the name or symbols of Alaska (moose, bears, aurora, etc.) or your city on them. You may also find items with business, school, organization or 4-H logos for sale in shops or as a fundraiser by local organizations. Some of these items may even be free. In Fairbanks, we often see new items with local designs on them at second-hand shops and garage sales. Possible items would be: socks, kitchen towels1() 2 (a) 1 (nd 4) 1 (nd 4) 1 .1() 2 () 2 (s) 1 (ef [(tf [(tf1 (o) -1 .)) 1 e5ev) -1 (en) -1

TSA won't allow wrapped gifts in luggage, so bring some paper gift bags to use when you arrive in Japan. You can also use reuseable shopping bags as gift bags.

Japan is a gift-giving culture. Be prepared to have some small gifts to give people who help you. This might be the neighbor who takes you shopping, or another Labo family who takes you sightseeing. A good way to be always ready for these situations is to carry a ziploc bag of pins, postcards or other small items in whatever you use as a day bag--the purse, messenger bag or backpack that you carry on day trips so you can have your camera, etc. with you. The postcards can feature 4-H or be photos of your state or town. If you do some shopping around, you should be able to find a shop that sells them for between 5 to 10 for \$1.00. In Fairbanks, the Wal