

VOICES From THE NEW YORKERS

The Princess, the Tea and Me

Kia Cheleen

Japan recently crowned a new Emperor and Empress, marking the "Reiwa" era. I have actually interacted with Empress Masako, then Princess Masako, on several occasions during my tenure at the United Nations in Tokyo.



When (then-) Princess Masako started coming to the United Nations building, we felt very honored to be in her presence. We all nervously stood up from our desks and bowed deeply as she walked by. She would sometimes stop to talk with the United Nations staff, asking us where we are from and what type of work we were doing at the United Nations. I knew that there are special words in Japanese to be used with royalty. But I certainly could not speak such formal Japanese. So I only spoke with her in English.

One day, I was asked to run protocol for Princess Masako's regular visit, which was normally handled by a high-ranking secretary. At first, I declined because being the point person was a lot of extra work. But they insisted that I was the "chosen one." I was asked to submit my resume, a copy of my passport, a copy of my Foreign Alien Registration Card and the like.

Handling a Harvard- and Oxford-educated member of the Japanese Imperial household with linguistic talents in five languages would certainly intimidate anyone. I knew that I would be asked to serve Her Imperial Highness some tea. I thought, "Me? Serve green tea to Princess Masako?" I thought it could go very wrong since I am not Japanese. So I ended up serving her instant tea. Yes, I served the Crown Princess and now Empress of Japan instant Lipton tea. ...

(Kia Cheleen is an inter-cultural consultant and a Japanese/English writer, translator and interpreter. Visit her at www.gillespieglobal.net or e-mail kcheleen@gmail.com.)

THE JAPAN VOICE

COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' Viewpoints



Ceremony for Hideyo Noguchi Held by New York Hideyo Noguchi Memorial Society

The New York Hideyo Noguchi Memorial Society held their 92nd annual ceremony at the Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx on May 21, the anniversary of his passing. The organization was created in 1913 for the purpose of honoring the legacy and outstanding virtues of bacteriologist Dr. Hideyo Noguchi (1876-1928). Participants included three people from faraway Koriyama City and Nishiazu Town of Fukushima Prefecture and approximately

50 others from Florida and Maine.



At the ceremony, the host, Vice Representative of the Memorial Society Yoshio Kano, Representative of Memorial Society and Professor of Columbia University Shunichi Honma, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Woodlawn Cemetery Michael Reynolds and Chief of the Japanese Consulate General Yasuji Abe each gave opening speeches. This was proceeded by the introduction to the development of the program by Tim O' Connor, Vice

President of The Rockefeller University.

In 1928, Dr. Hideyo Noguchi was sent from Rockefeller Research Laboratories to West Africa where he pursued the development of research on the Yellow Fever vaccine. There, however, he himself passed away while suffering from the disease. Later, he was transported to New York by ship and was buried at the Woodlawn Cemetery. Vice President O'Connor explained, "It is important to pass on the worldwide achievements and spirit of Dr. Noguchi to future generations, by the cooperation of organizations such as the Memorial Society and the Woodlawn Cemetery."

As the highlight of the ceremony, there was an announcement of the second nominee for the "New York Hideyo Noguchi Memorial Scholarship" created in 2019. The scholarship was awarded to 27-year-old Masato Ogishi from Tokyo. After graduating from the medical department of Tokyo University in 2016, he has been researching the mechanisms of tuberculosis at The

Rockefeller University since 2018 to find a way to control the development of the disease. Coming to America at the age of 24 and resembling Dr. Noguchi who devoted his life to science for humanity at the risk of his own, he is praised to be the perfect person for inheriting Hideyo Noguchi's teachings and ambitions.

Robert Yanagisawa, President of The Japanese Medical Society of



Masato Ogishi

America and professor at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, also read messages from President Yasuo Yago of the Hideyo Noguchi Memorial Society about Dr. Noguchi's birthplace Inawashiro, Fukushima, both in Japanese and in English. At the end, Representative Mitch Rose of the Woodlawn Cemetery gave the closing address.

Flowers were sent from 10 organizations: The Japanese Medical Society of America, The Consulate General of Japan in New York, The Rockefeller University, The Japanese American Association of New York, The Nippon Club, The New York Japanese-American Lions Club, the Japanese Medical Support Network in New York, the New York Fukushima-Kenjinkai, the Woodlawn Cemetery and The New York Hideyo Noguchi Memorial Society.

Yoshio Kano mentioned, "Dr. Noguchi's existence supports all Japanese people. We would like to continue to protect his grave and pass on his influence and spirit to the coming generations." (Article provided by the New York Hideyo Noguchi Memorial Society / Translated by Ai Omae)

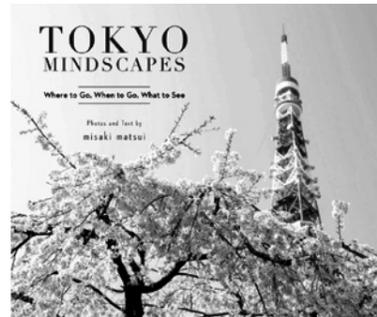
Meet the Author of TOKYO MINDSCAPES

Misaki Matsui to Speak at Kinokuniya on June 29

Misaki Matsui, photographer, film director and author of newly published book Tokyo Mindscapes (Museyon, Inc.), will talk about her first book on Saturday, June 29 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Kinokuniya bookstore on Avenue of the Americas and 40th Street.

She will discuss her book, "Tokyo Mindscapes: Where to Go, When to Go, What to See," while presenting her gorgeous and fascinating photos of Tokyo and nearby suburban cities. This is a rare opportunity to learn about the places Tokyoites treasure during every season in their daily lives from the native residents' points of view.

From her book: "Born in Kobe, Japan, misaki matsui is an acclaimed



photographer and film director. In 2008, she moved to New York and created projects including Fragments of Hope from New York, white sea, KASUMI, mit Kenji und Keisuke—Brooklyn, New York and more, which were nominated for awards at the Raindance Film Festival, the Monaco International Film Festival and the Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia. She currently resides in Tokyo. www.misakimatsui.com (News release)

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Advertisement for Maekake aprons. Text: "Now is the time to spread Japanese traditional craftsman's skill. Art apron since Edo period. Maekake aprons have been used since 19th century for the purposes of advertisement and guarding hips. It is made of 100% cotton, thick fabric. You can enjoy traditional craftsman's handmade aprons." Lists various apron models like 'YUME', 'Kotobuki', 'Daruma', 'Kokorozashi', 'MAKOTO' with prices. Includes website URL: http://www.anything.ne.jp/newyork/

Advertisement for Haiku Contest. Text: "Apply for HAIKU Contest! Haiku is a poem following the syllabic pattern of 5-7-5." Includes rules: "Haiku in English may consider the following as a model: Across the still lake through upcurls of morning mist The cry of a loon". Promoter: New York Seikatsu Press INC. Sponsor: ITO EN (North America) INC.

Advertisement for the newspaper website. Text: "You can read the whole layout of the newspaper on the website! www.nyseikatsu.com And the back numbers, too!! New York Seikatsu Press, Inc."

Charity for East Japan Earthquake Disaster. Text: "5% of profit through your purchase will be donated for recovery from Earthquake disaster in Tohoku (directly donated to Ishinomaki City in Miyagi Prefecture)." Logo for Anything.