

VOICES From THE NEW YORKERS

Good Luck on Your Journey

DAN McDONALD

Over the years, many Japanese friends and colleagues have shared stories of caring for loved ones back home as they age. Long, extended trips back to Japan, visits to unfamiliar nursing homes and hospitals and saying goodbye when they pass. Some have felt guilty for living so far away and unprepared for the challenge of caring for a parent or other relative.



The phone call came in February. My father was in the hospital and was diagnosed with dementia. He could no longer care for himself. Although he doesn't live in another country, the long out of state drives to visit him have provided time to reflect. Feelings of guilt for living so far away and not seeing him every day. Exploring the paths our lives took, with me moving to Japan and my father moving back to his hometown in Massachusetts.

It seems nothing can prepare us for the moment when we become the parent. It is overwhelming. Finances to sort out, possessions to pack up. Dreading the day when your loved one no longer recognizes you. Seeing a parent who has declined to the point you barely recognize them. If we are lucky, we get to share a little more time with them, whether it be holding hands and watching tv together or showing them pictures of their grandchildren. Going home and packing up their belongings sometimes enables us to reconnect with our own past and find answers to questions. I now have the chance to help care for the man who raised me, and for that I feel in a sense fortunate.

(Dan is a newspaper columnist, editor and Japanese translator. Interested readers can contact him at dan9605@hotmail.com)

THE JAPAN VOICE

COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' Viewpoints



Japanese Ambassador Donates to U.N. Peace Bell That Rings Sound of Peace for International Community

On June 17, Ambassador Yasuhisa Kawamura, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, visited Ms. Jan Beagle, the Under-Secretary-General, and handed over his donation for the United Nations Peace Bell Fund.

Ambassador Kawamura said, "I had an opportunity to give a lecture on U.N. activities to the local Japanese audiences in May. I promised that I would donate to the U.N. Fund to maintain the peace bell. I am here today with the check and would like you to accept it. The peace bell, cast of coins from all over the world, was dedicated to the U.N. headquarters in 1954 by the late Chiyoji Nakagawa before Japan joined the United Nations. It has now come into a yearly tradition that the Secretary-General rings the bell on September 21, the International Day of Peace. The bell is a symbolic connection between Japan

and the United Nations in the common pursuit of peace, and it is an important U.N. asset for all Japanese



Ambassador Kawamura, DPR, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (left), visited Ms. Beagle, the Under-Secretary-General, and handed his donation for the United Nations Peace Bell Fund. (June 17)

people to be proud of. Therefore, I would be grateful if this small sum of money I have with me would be utilized in passing this bell onto the next generation."

Under-Secretary-General Beagle responded, "Today is such a lovely day as Ambassador Kawamura



has come to donate to the U.N. It is a well-known tradition that the Secretary-General rings the peace bell each year. This is a precious asset to echo the sound of peace throughout the international community. We will immediately deposit the check into the fund and use it carefully. I would like to express my deepest gratitude."

Ambassador Kawamura had given a lecture at the spring luncheon hosted by Friends of Rinri New York (CEO Emiko Akutagawa Lindsay) on May 16. (Ryoichi Miura/Translated by Hiroko Makabe)



THE JAPAN VOICE is the English Edition of SHUKAN NY SEIKATSU NEW YORK SEIKATSU PRESS, INC., 71 W 47 St, Suite 307 New York, NY 10036 USA Editor in Chief: Ryoichi Miura, Associate Editor: Ashley Matarama, Editor: Kaoru Komi Advertise Here! Contact 212-213-6069 info@nyseikatsu.com

WARNER BROS. FEATURE FILM OPEN CASTING CALL!

Seeking young adults (18-20's) and kids (9-11) to play JAPANESE, English speaking, for LEAD and SUPPORTING roles in "Box 28" (an undisclosed Warner Bros. live action feature film). NO ACTING EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.

If you are interested in applying, please contact us! The producer is committed to providing equal employment opportunity and prohibits all forms of unlawful discrimination and harassment based on age, ancestry, color, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, medical condition, mental or physical disability, military and veteran status, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or any other basis protected by law.

THERE IS NEVER A FEE TO AUDITION. ANY SUCH ACTIVITY IS FRAUDULENT AND SHOULD BE REPORTED.

ESPECIALLY SEEKING: - Male, to play JAPANESE (18), English speaking role. Must be of legal age (18+) to play a sharp-eyed, sinewy, tough, handsome and cool character. He's the leader of a street gang of teenagers and knows how to have a good time. He shouldn't be too cool or too tough. He's a scrappy, rag-tag kid who's not worried about anything. Your weird, natural, authentic self is welcome!

OTHER LEAD ROLES: (see page28) - Male or Female to play ASIAN (18-20's), English speaking roles. Must be of legal age (18+). - Male or Female KIDS to play ASIAN (9-11), English speaking roles.

Submissions must be made ASAP! The deadline is July 15. No guarantees of extension. Submit an e-mail to filmcastingsearch@gmail.com Subject Line: full name, desired role, city and state of residence; Body of E-mail: full name, city and state of residence, contact information (phone/e-mail) and a current photo (NOT filtered or retouched, please. A simple, honest photo of the real you!). Include face/body type. Include fun facts about yourself, so we get to know the real you! For minors auditioning, we must correspond with parent(s) or guardian(s). Include all requested information above, plus full name, age and D.O.B. of minor and full name of parent or guardian, contact information, etc.

Advertisement for Maekake aprons. Text: 'Now is the time to spread Japanese traditional craftsman's skill Art apron since Edo period Maekake'. Images of various aprons and tote bags. Price list: MAEKAKE 'YUME' \$59.00, MAEKAKE 'Kotobuki' \$59.00, MAEKAKE 'Daruma' \$49.00, MAEKAKE 'Kokorozashi' \$59.00, MAEKAKE Tote Bag 'MAKOTO' \$85.00. 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 instructions on how to apply and contact information for 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.