

THE JAPAN VOICE

COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' View points



Protest Against Racism by Japanese Descendants

Japanese descendants of those who were in the internment camps during World War II marched from 34th Street Penn Station to the Japanese American United Church (between 24th and 25th Street) to protest against racism. They wore old-fashioned clothes similar to those of their ancestors, holding suitcases as they marched in silence. This activity was started by the JAACL, or Japanese American Citizens League, who has experienced racism and felt it was unreasonable when Islamic immigrants were sent outside of the country by the United States administration four years ago. Takeshi Furumoto, President of FURUMOTO REALTY in New Jersey, also joined the march; he was born in an internment camp and fought for the United States in the Vietnam War. (Ryoichi Miura/Translated by Chikako Iwasaki)



The Museum of Modern Art Screens Documentary Film "Seishin Zero"

The documentary film "Seishin Zero" by Director Kazuhiro Sōda was screened at the 19th Documentary Fortnight held at the Museum of Modern Art on February 14 and 18. The protagonist is Masakazu Yamamoto, a psychiatrist retiring at 82 years old. While his patients are upset



Japanese Emperor's Birthday Reception Held at United Nations Ambassador's Residence

The Japanese Emperor's birthday reception was held on February 13 at the United Nations ambassador's residence, and ambassadors from around the world were invited. Kimihiro Ishikane, the United Nations ambassador, proposed the toast and talked about the reception being the first since the Japanese era changed to Reiwa, as well as how the emperor, interested in water's effect on our lives, had enrolled in Oxford University in 1980. A few years ago, the emperor gave a speech at the United Nations headquarters about his studies on water. The ambassador also explained how 2020 is the 75th anniversary of the United Nations and of the Olympics being hosted in Japan, designating this year as the year of the international sports festival. The ambassador is looking forward to promoting world peace through sports. (Ryoichi Miura/Translated by Kanta Hakamata)

by the news, Yoshiko, who had been supporting Yamamoto throughout his career, suffers from dementia and is in need of nursing care.

At the stage greeting, Director Sōda introduced the "Ten Command-

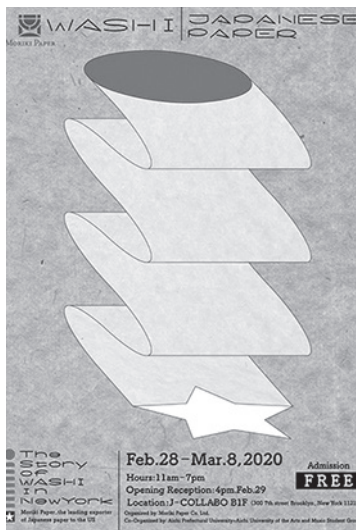
ments" that he follows in his filmmaking: no research, no meetings, no script, only one cameraman, long filming periods, avoid alibi-like coverage, no setting themes while editing, no narrations, longer cuts and all costs to be covered by Sōda himself.

His wife Noriko Kashiwagi, a contemporary dancer and choreographer, was responsible for the production of the film. Rather than the feeling that one has simply watched a movie, it makes the viewer feel as if they were placed inside the screen—as if they even ate the sushi shown in one particular scene alongside the characters. (Ryoichi Miura/Translated by Ai Omae)

Spreading Knowledge of Japanese Paper for Development Overseas; Aichi College Students Volunteer in Exhibition

The NPO J Collabo (300 7th Avenue in Brooklyn), wishing to spread accurate information about Washi, held a Washi paper and products exhibition from February 28 to March 8 in order to promote the development of the Washi industry overseas.

Washi was designated as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2014, but domestic demand has continued to decline. In addition,



as the number of people who possess accurate information and knowledge of Washi decreases, there have been cases where paper similar to Washi is sold overseas and marketed inaccurately as Washi.

To change this situation, students from Aichi Prefectural University and Aichi University of the Arts organized an exhibition of Washi in a university-sponsored student vol-

unteer project.

The exhibition is a joint project with Moriki Paper Co., Ltd., a Japanese paper export trading company. The event was free admission and included a lecture on February 29, a reception and workshops on March 1, 7 and 8. For more information about Washi, visit <https://thetoryofwashi.wixsite.com/brooklyn> or e-mail aichi.washi@gmail.com. (Ryoichi Miura/Translated by Masaya Watanabe)



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