

VOICES From THE NEW YORKERS

Support Japanese Businesses During COVID-19

by Susan McCormac

We are living in uncertain times with the COVID-19 pandemic. As the coronavirus started to spread in our area,



New Yorkers began to see cancellations of events and closures of bars and restaurants at an alarming rate.

Several organizations have cancelled their Sakura Matsuri events and film festivals, and Japan Day @ Central Park and the Japan Day Parade have been postponed. Museums, galleries, and cultural organizations have closed their doors as well. Stay connected with them on social media to get updates and your Japan culture fix.

While we practice social distancing, we can support our favorite Japanese restaurants by ordering take out or delivery where available. If your favorite restaurants are closed indefinitely, please consider purchasing a gift cards. TIC Restaurant Group, which operates 16 Japanese restaurants, has a Go Fund Me campaign to support their staff. Please consider making a donation if you are able.

Katagiri and Sunrise Mart remain open and provide grocery delivery. Stock up on sake, shochu, and Japanese whisky from Sakaya and Kuraichi.

Stay safe and help those in need if you can. I hope to see everyone at a Japanese bar, restaurant, or event very soon!

(Susan is the founder of JapanCultureNYC, an English-language website for all things Japanese in New York, and the co-host of The Big Root Podcast.)

THE JAPAN VOICE

COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' Viewpoints



Remote Workers Rise to 60% Countermeasures Against COVID-19

The Consulate-General of Japan, JETRO New York Japan and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of New York (JCCI) held a survey for Japanese companies in New York to research the effects of COVID-19 on their businesses. The survey targeted JCCI's member companies and out of 226 of them, 126 answered during the span of March 10 to 12. According to the survey, 62.7% of companies have made remote

working an option for their employees. Most of the companies did not specify how long they would implement remote work. Delaying start times for work was cited as a plan for more than 50% of surveyed companies, while 25% did not show interest in doing so. A surprising 43.7% indicated they would have no restrictions on meetings held inside the company. However, there were about 30% of companies who

planned to have restrictions on internal meetings. Meanwhile, there were a lot of answers indicating that companies wished to avoid contact with other companies. 37.3% of companies cancelled meetings and interviews. If you include companies avoiding contact with "peo-



ple who stayed in specific countries within 14 days," the numbers would add up to over 60%.

Companies restricting "non-company related meetings with large numbers of people" form 66.7% of those surveyed while those eating with non-company related people was 43.5%. Business trips are being restricted, too. In the country, 62.7% are restricting business trips. 86.5% of international business trips have been restricted in some way. Even if international business trips are allowed, half of companies are suggesting staying at home afterwards. 44% of Japanese companies are doing the same with remote working after business trips. If we include companies that plan to implement remote work after business trips in the near future, that brings the figure up to 67.3%. (Ryoichi Miura/Translated by Kanta Hakamata)

Japan Day @ Central Park 2020 Postponed Rescheduling in the Fall

Japan Day, Inc. sent an e-mail regarding the decision to postpone Japan Day @ Central Park 2020, originally scheduled for May 10, to all sponsors,

groups and parties involved. The Consulate General of Japan in New York made an announcement to news media about this decision. Japan Day, Inc. gave the following statement: "In light of the ongoing situation concerning the novel coronavirus pandemic, after much consideration, we have regrettably come to the decision to postpone the Japan Day @ Central Park 2020 (Japan Day Parade and Festival) event, currently scheduled for May 10, 2020, to a later date in the year (currently anticipating the fall)." This decision was made only two months before the event was scheduled to occur. They also said, "This decision was difficult to make as the situation is quite fluid; however, our main concern is the safety and wellness of our spectators and visitors, sponsors, staff and all involved with the event. Therefore, we kindly ask you for your unequivocal understanding in this decision. We will pay special attention to this situation and will inform you with further details." This event is held annual with the goal of expressing the Japanese community's gratitude to American society, to form a strong bond between New York based companies of Japanese descent and to be a bridge of Japanese and Americans through the biggest event in New York that is related to Japanese culture. Their plan for this year is to hold a big parade in Central Park, celebrating the 160th anniversary of the First Japanese Delegation to New York City. (Ryoichi Miura/Translated by Chikako Iwasaki)

10,000 MIKI HOUSE Smiles Project on Instagram (Goal: 10,000 posts)

Post a photo of your child/baby smiling with hashtag #mikihousesmile and tag @mikihouseusa in the photo. Once we reach 10,000 hashtag #mikihousesmile, we will donate \$10,000 value (market price) of our products to Latin and South America through @United Planet. Your kid's smile can make the world brighter!

MIKI HOUSE is partnering with United Planet for this project. Find out more about them at unitedplanet.org!

THE JAPAN VOICE is the English Edition of SHUKAN NY SEIKATSU New York SEIKATSU PRESS, INC. 71W47th St. Suite 307, New York, NY 10036 USA Editor in Chief: Ryoichi Miura, Associate Editor: Ashley Matarama 212-213-6069 info@nyseikatsu.com

Advertisement for Maekake aprons. Text: 'Now is the time to spread Japanese traditional craftsman's skill Art apron since Edo period Maekake'. Includes images of various aprons and a list of products with prices: MAEKAKE 'YUME' \$59.00, MAEKAKE 'Kotobuki' \$59.00, MAEKAKE 'Daruma' \$49.00, MAEKAKE Tote 'Kokorozashi' \$59.00, MAEKAKE Tote Bag 'MAKOTO' \$85.00. Website: 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.'