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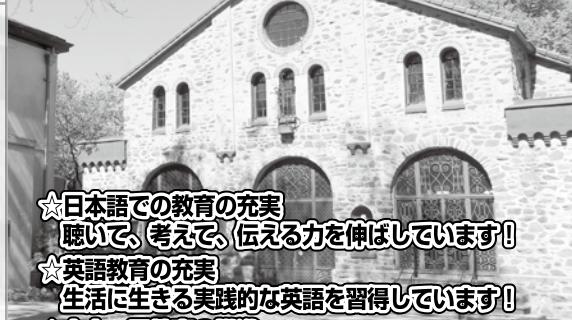
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CHIE IMAI's translated autobiography to be published in the U.S.

It begins with a single fur.

Chie Imai, lead designer of the luxury brand CHIE IMAI, has published her autobiography, "Happiness and Success Begin with a Single Fur - Chie Imai's 'My Legacy' Can Lead to Your Path" (Nikkei Business Publications, Inc.). The English version of the book will be published this year.

The book was sold at Kinokuniya Bookstore in New York, the city where Ms. Imai's global expansion began. Her autobiography received great reviews from the city's Japanese people. ("Book Reviews" section on June 5).

Ms. Imai initially refused Nikkei BP's offer to publish her book, feeling hesitant to share her success stories and hardships, but later changed her mind. She said, "I want as many people as possible to know the beauty and joy of fur. Also, through my life, I've wanted to give everyone a hint of how to live so that they can see the light, hoping that even a little of this can be useful to the people living today and to those in the next generation."

Regarding her resulting autobiography, she said, "I was able to give my message as an entrepreneur and designer to the generation of dreamers, as well as methods to open up a new future, and it became a fun book that makes you feel positive about life."

The book has been read not only by women, but also by several men and women in their twenties and thirties, a range wider than expected. Young male businessmen have commented that "they will use it as a bible". It has also been highly praised by various media in the business and fashion worlds.

In particular, the chapter on her thoughts on fur expresses her strong conviction and shows how to live one's life, which is something we tend to lose sight of in today's diversified society.

"Fur is a material that is 'natural,' 'beautiful,' 'fun,' and 'enriching'. It's also highly functional, with outstanding heat retention and breathability. Fur has a long history with humans, dating back to the Stone Age. Humans have been using fur and leather to protect themselves from the cold and to perform their hunting. The idea of fashion at CHIE IMAI, the luxury brand for which I am the lead designer, is based on long-term

JAPAN VOICE

THE COOL JAPAN from New Yorker's Viewpoints

Masha's ARIGATO

An album of gratitude from the three daughters of a mother that survived on a Sugihara visa

During the Second World War, many Jews escaped from Europe on the Trans-Siberian Railway. They traveled to the United States via Japan holding life-saving transit visas which allowed them to pass through a third country (known as "Visas for Life"), the only means to travel abroad in wartime. The diplomat who wrote approximately 2,000 visas by hand, Chiune Sugihara (1900-1981), and his family, now live in New York. They are still grateful to Japan. One recipient of the visa, Marsha Leon (Bernstein), a 10-year-old girl at the time of her escape, passed away five years ago at the age of 86. Her memory lives on in her three daughters who grew up hearing their mother's memories of kindness shown to her by the Japanese. Leon's daughters are now thriving artists (a composer, a pianist, and a photographer). The three of them collaborated to make an album to express their gratitude towards Japan. The album, entitled "Masha's Arigato", contains original songs and a rendition of "Sakura", a traditional Japanese folk song. (Ryoichi Miura / Translated by Marie Smith)

"A visa for life made me a big fan of Japan"

Japanese Culture and Friendship Taught to Woman's Three Daughters

"Our mother, Masha, arrived in Tsuruga in February 1941, and then she traveled to Kobe on February 24. She was 10 years old at the time and was taken care of by a French nun at St. Mary's Catholic Elementary School. My mother and my grandmother, Zelda Bernstein, used Kobe as a base and visited Tokyo, Nara, Osaka, and Takarazuka during their six months in Japan. I remember that they shared their fond memories of watching samurai movies and walking around Honmachi with us. Her time in Japan was followed by her marriage in the United States, where she gave birth to three daughters. She worked as a reporter for a Jewish newspaper while taking us to Kabuki and Bunraku performances. In particular I remember the time when Toshiro Mifune came to the U.S. in 1992 at the invitation of the Japan Society. There was a poster contest for the movie "Seven Samurai," and I drew the poster and had him sign

sustainability and respect for the rights of the individual. I want to encourage people to stop the negative thinking that arises from biased ideas and opinions, and to freely enjoy their individual style and fashion. We believe that in an age where we recognize diversity, we should also respect the freedom of people who like fur. In this age when people around the world are thinking about diversity, I would be happy if you read this article with your thoughts" (Ryoichi Miura / Translated by Marie Smith)

it. I gave him a copy. I was already a fan of Japanese movies, so my mother and I were very moved.

There were also folding fans and postcards that my mother brought from Japan, which were donated to the Tsuruga Museum in Japan two years ago. Another memory I have is accompanying my mother when Prime Minister Abe visited the Jewish Museum in Washington D.C. She was invited as a representative of the survivors and shook hands with him.

I heard that nearly 4,000 Jewish refugees once arrived in New York via Japan. I don't know the exact number of survivors now, but my mother's great voyage on the Amakusa Maru has led to our peaceful life today. We still have a subscription to TV Japan and enjoy watching sumo matches and other broadcasts. My sisters and I were exposed to Japanese culture from a very young age. My older sister, Laura, is a pianist, I (Karen) am a photographer and illustrator, and my younger sister, Nina, is a composer. Two years ago, the three of us collaborated on an album, which contains original compositions and "Sakura". It's entitled 'Masha's Arigato' (Thank you from Masha)". Whenever I listen to it, I can feel the emotions of the distant Showa era surging through me.



Chiune Sugihara

Ms. Masha Leon in NY



Masha's Arigato

BY NINA LEON

LAURA LEON
PIANO

A piano work inspired by the true story of Masha, a girl saved by the heroic Japanese diplomat Sugihara during WWII.



Nina Leon



Karen Leon



Laura Leon

Visa for Life Online Conference Links Japan and the U.S.A

On November 12, 2021, the "Japan-U.S. 'Visa for Life' Online Conference" was held to discuss Sugihara's humanitarian efforts and their legacy. The event was centered around two books written by Akira Kitade. The first about the Japanese who supported Sugihara at the time, "Visa for Life, Faraway Journey" (published by Kotsu Shimbunsha), and "Haranaruto Tabiji (Continuing Life's Journey)" (published by Parade), which focuses on the rescue of Jews by other diplomats. At the beginning of the conference, Ambassador Kanji Yamanouchi, Consul General of Japan in New York, delivered a message. In the latter half of the meeting, Laura Leon, a pianist living in New York City and daughter of the late Marsha Leon, read a statement and played music her sister, Nina, had created called "Masha's Arigato". In her statement of gratitude, Ms. Leon said that although it had been more than 80 years since Sugihara issued the visas, the descendants of Jewish refugees whose lives were saved by him and who made it to New York City are still grateful to Japan.

Shukan NY Seikatsu interviewed two of the three daughters of Marsha Leon, a survivor who passed away in 2017 at the age of 86: her eldest daughter Laura and Karen, who live in New York City. For more information about the album: <https://lauraleonpiano.com/cds/cds/c/241> musicaltapestriesinc.com

絵本『コインでつなぐ平和の鐘』絶賛発売中！

ニューヨークの国連本部ビルの日本庭園にある「平和の鐘」は、愛媛県宇和島市長を務めた中川千代治元日本国連協会愛媛県副本部長（1905～72年）が、日本が国連に加盟する前の1951年、パリにおける国連会議に出席した際に世界65か国から寄贈された各国代表のメダルや硬貨、ローマ法王からの寄贈メダルや日本の古銭などを加えて「平和の鐘」を作り、54年に日本国連協会の名の下に国連本部に寄贈したものです。2年後の56年に日本は80番目の加盟国となり国際社会に復帰。毎年9月末に国連事務総長がこの鐘を突いて国連総会の開幕を告げるが長年の習わいで、この日は「国連和平デー」と呼ばれています。日本が国連に加盟して62周年を迎えた今年、この絵本は、日本から平和を訴える強いメッセージとなるでしょう。

The Story of the UN Peace Bell

In 1951, before Japan became a member of the UN, Chiyoji Nakagawa of Uwajima, Ehime Prefecture went to the UN Conference in Paris at his own expense. He then gathered coins and medals from the delegates of 65 nations who were participating in the conference, added a donative medal from the Pope as well as Japanese coins and cast the Peace Bell with all the pieces. The bell was donated under the name of the UN Association of Japan and installed in 1954; two years later, Japan officially became the 80th member of the UN. Every September on the International Day for Peace, it has become a tradition that the United Nations Secretary-General rings the bell to mark the opening of the UN General Assembly. This year marks the 62nd anniversary of Japan joining the United Nations, and the picture book conveys a significant message of peace from Japan.

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Story by Seiko Takase
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Text & illustrations by Rutsuko Aizawa



発行元：国連平和の鐘を守る会
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新年も、「おうち時間」を豊かに!! 「ショップNY生活」が、お手伝いします。

年末からのコロナ感染急増で、またまた「おうち時間」が増えたことだと思いますが、週刊NY生活が運営するショッピングサイト「ショップNY生活」では、おうち時間を少しでも明るく過ごせるようなアイデアをご提案します。



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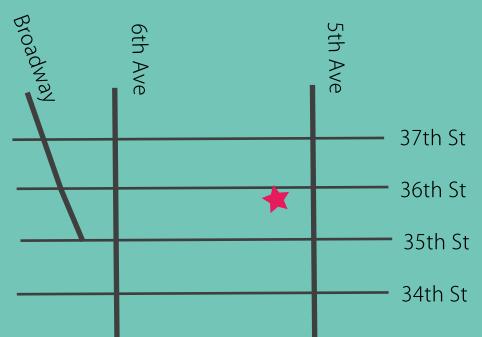


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