

Dear friends,

Greetings. Here is our summary of 2018.

<Yukiko in 2018>

As a new year came, I was running a rather high fever (104°F). I felt sick but I did not think it was that high. I even did not have a thermometer. Kazumi took me to an emergency care. He was astounded that I was still somehow functioning in that condition. It took a whole month to recover until an *onsen* (hot springs) trip to Arima that my colleagues presented. In March, I had a new book published. Later in March, I attended a conference in Washington D.C. A snow storm prevented many people from attending, but we managed to arrive to a hotel late. A group of Kazumi's friends were waiting and started a small party in the lobby. Kazumi broke a toilet bowl in our hotel room. (too many drinks or just a slip accident?) In July after I came back from data collection from



Middlebury, Hiroshima suffered from landslides caused by heavy rain. Public transportations were stopped. It took until the end of September for train system to resume normal schedule. August was a fun month. Ms. Koguchi and Suma (my former students) and I went to an international conference in Venice. We visited Florence and Pisa. I was able to visit a series of art museums.



In October, a colleague, (Dr. Watanabe) and I went to Yuta *onsen*. It was a very mellow *onsen* place. We ran into a local French bistro that turned out be wonderful. It is nice that Japan has so many nice small places in short distance.

In November, we had a reunion of my college class and I was assigned to be in charge of arranging this gathering this year. More than expected number of friends came. The reunion turned out to be a big success.

As I started preparation for retirement last year, I have been busy advising student's dissertations and theses. Three students finished this year, and two more are graduating in February and March in 2019. After that, I should be able to go back to my research and writing.

In December, Kazumi and I have two travel plans. One is a trip to Vietnam to visit world heritages. The other is to local *onsen* in Shizuoka.

<Kazumi in 2018>



In January, I started teaching an advanced level Japanese course focusing Japanese culinary culture for the second time. In February, Hayashiya Niraku, a master paper-cutter, came to Midwest for a ten-day five-school tour with me. Performances were held at Purdue, University of Notre Dame, Earlham College, Kenyon College + Denison University, and Oberlin College. It was a very satisfying trip, but we were both dead tired in the end.

In March, Yukiko flew from Japan and we went to Washington D.C. to attend AATJ conference. The conference went fine, but I broke a toilet bowl in our hotel room. A kind of embarrassing happening. (I just slipped.) In May in Japan, I had an opportunity to revisit the Kanno family in Rikuzen-takata with two daughter-like friends (Ari and Noriko). The Kannos moved in a new house after seven years in temporary housing. Back in 2012 when I met them for the first time, I made a

promise to stay in a new house and have a few drinks together. The promise finally came true. I managed to have a few rounds of golf with my old friends as they have gone into next phase of life. (e.g. golfing on weekdays)

In June, I started my final session of Middlebury Japanese School. Although I was determined to run this session just like any other sessions, my staffs did not allow that. Thanks to their work, I had number of memorable celebrations throughout summer. The session went flawlessly. I thank for wonderful students and wonderful staff. During the session, I had basketball-related visitors, the Iino family and the Fukuda family. Mr. Iino is my *kohai* in high school and college. Mr. Fukuda is my teammate in varsity basketball team. My schedule in summer will be very different starting next year, and I am looking forward to it.



In August, I resumed my regular teaching at Purdue. In November, Ms. Shigeko Sasamori, 86-year-old a-bomb survivor, came to Purdue for a talk. She visited Middlebury several times, but this was her first visit to Purdue. Reactions from students made me reaffirm how meaningful and important this activity was. As she is healthy and is willing to continue her activity, I am determined to assist her in whatever ways I can.

Lastly, I signed up for a volunteer of Tokyo Olympic games. Let's see how this develops.

We wish you a very happy new year!

Kazumi & Yukiko

Miitaro (born in 1999): I am again spending winter break with Megumi in Chicago. My legs are getting weaker, but I am managing it.

Chibitan III (born in 2005): I am still as healthy as I can be. My veterinary expenses this year are only for vaccinations.



Chibitan & Miitaro

***** Happy New Year 2019 *****