

* * * * * 2022 has become somewhat normal... * * * * *

Dear friends,

The U.S. was free from the hassles of Corona this fall, how has your year been? Let us inform you of our 2022 activities.

<Kazumi & Yukiko's 2022 Travels >

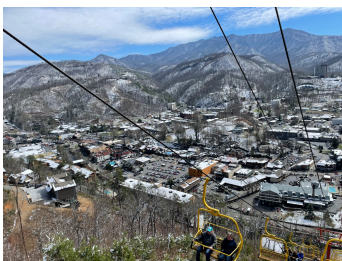
We had many trips together this year. First, at the end of 2021, we went to Ginzan Onsen in Yamagata Prefecture. It had just snowed and was very beautiful. (It was just like the world of Spirited Away, and I highly recommend it.)

Ginzan Hot Springs



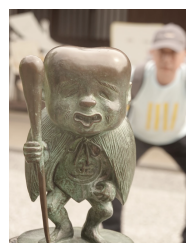
When Yukiko came to the U.S. in March, we went to Smoky Mountain National Park for the first time. It was still cold, but it was interesting.

Smoky Mountains



After Kazumi returned to Tokyo in May, we first traveled to Kurashiki, Uno where the Setouchi Art Festival was being held, Naoshima, and then crossed over to the San-in region to visit Daisen, Yonago, Izumo Taisha Shrine, and Tamatsukuri.

Chinu in Uno, Mt. Daisen, Mizuki Road, Izumo Taisha Shrine



In July, we had been wanting to go to Yakushima Island for a long time, and the trip was realized.

Kigen-sugi (one of the Yakusugi cedars), Moss Forest, Monkey (wild), Lodge



(<https://one-taste.org/yakushima/>)

In August, we traveled to Kanazawa and Noto with our friend. We went to the cliffs made famous by two-hour TV suspense dramas.

Natadera Temple (Ishikawa Prefecture), Yase's Cliff, Koso-yu (Yamashiro Onsen), Nodoguro bowl (Kanazawa)



< Yukiko's 2022 >

In January, we bought a condominium under construction in Kaihin-Makuhari, Chiba. In March, I returned to the U.S. and visited the Appalachian Mountains. I then attended AAAL (American Association for Applied Linguistics) and listening to research presentations in English was very stimulating.

In April, I started my final year at Hiroshima University. However, the immigration restrictions were still strict and the number of faculty members who could start face-to-face classes was small. I have a mountain of things to do before I retire. If I have any unfinished research, I will finish it after my retirement. I was able to publish a book in September, and I am currently working on a sequel to be published in 2023.



In July, we went hiking in Yakushima, and it seems that I hurt my leg during the hike. I thought it was just the usual muscle pain, but it got worse and worse, and by the time I went to the hospital, my knee was filled with fluid equivalent to 10 large injections. At first they thought it might be arthritis, but later they found out that it was a fracture. I am still relying on a cane and refraining from walking. Even so, my colleague, Tomoko, took me on an overnight trip to a hot spring last month. Since I could not move my legs, I was indebted not only to her but also to Yoko and the other Yukiko, who accompanied me. It will take one or two more months for heal

completely, but once it does, I will be able to exercise and go hiking. I will be moving to Tokyo in March next year, so I think I will be in Tokyo or the U.S. in 2023.

< Kazumi's 2022 >

The masks began to come off in March in the U.S. as COVID19 infection continued. Spring semester classes became a mix of online and in-person; my dreams of a trip to Hawaii were dashed, as the March conference in Hawaii also went online. Still, the mask mandate at a gym eased up in March, so I was able to start playing basketball regularly.

After returning to Tokyo in May, I guided friends around Asakusa and downtown, took a cruise on the Sumida River, and asked Master Sankyō to record a rakugo performance for Princeton University's summer program. I also went to Nagoya and Osaka. In Nagoya, I visited Okehazama (historical battlefield) for the first time. The Yanagibashi Central Fish Market was also interesting. In Osaka, I visited the Tenmabashisuji Shopping Arcade and the Nissin Noodle Museum in Ikeda.

Through out summer, my high school pals took me several rounds of golf. In September I received my fifth Covid19 and flu vaccination.

In November, the ACTFL conference was held in Boston. I was able to meet and talk with many people for the first time in a few years. It was cold in Boston at night, but I was also able to enjoy the city with my friends. We had a lively Thanksgiving this year as well, with friends coming to the party.

Mitaro & Chibitan: Dad is starting to forget about us, so we are discussing the possibility of haunting together.

Hoping that next year will be a normal year...

Kazumi & Yukiko

* * * * * Hoping that 2023 will be a normal year...

* * * * *