

Dear All,

It has been a hot year, but life has largely returned to normal in 2023. COVID is over, and I have the impression that there were many events that took place "for the first time in ... years.

<Our travelogue in 2023>

After Yukiko retired from Hiroshima University, we were together in Indiana from February to May and then in Tokyo. We had more time for activities together than ever before, and we spent the summer in Japan touring.

We started with a trip at the end of last year to see Mt. Fuji from different angles. We went around Hakone-Gora-Gotemba-Nihondaira-Atami and enjoyed the scenery of Mt. Fuji.



In May, we stopped in Hawaii for the first time in many years. On Oahu, a tour of the local botanical gardens was impressive. The highlight was a visit to the summit of Mauna Kea on the Big Island of Hawaii. We watched the sunset behind the observatory and did some stargazing. This place is home to several



world-famous observatories, as it is a place where the air is so pure that you can see stars from both the northern and southern hemispheres.

Shortly after returning to Tokyo, Wendy, who worked with me at Middlebury College, came to Japan for the first time, so we took her on a guided tour of Asakusa and a tour of Kyoto.

We then took a tour of Tateyama, Kuroyon Dam, and Kamikochi. It was indeed a well-planned tour and highly satisfying.



In June, we went to Kamakura and Enoshima to see hydrangeas, and in July, we took a tour of Hokkaido in the central part of Hokkaido. The flower fields covering the hills like a carpet were very beautiful. And the last main event in Japan was the Nagaoka Fireworks tour, which made us realize how small fireworks in Tokyo are.



In August, we went to Belgium for the first time to attend a conference of the European Association for Japanese Studies. On the way back, we visited Antwerp and Amsterdam. The village of windmills was a nice sight.



< Yukiko in 2023 >

学習者を支援する
日本語指導法
支援 会話 作文 総合学習
増谷由紀子

I retired in March 2023. Before that, I hoarded my paid vacation time and left for Tokyo in February, and spent the month of March in North America. It was the first time in about 30 years that we had lived together for more than a month, and I was prepared for the days to be filled with constant fighting, but it was surprisingly peaceful.

Last year I broke my leg and could not walk without a cane for almost 10 months. Since May I have been allowed to walk normally, and I have been doing activities to strengthen my legs, such as visiting museums and traveling alone for rehabilitation.

I also continue to do research that I was not able to do during my tenure. It doesn't pay the bills, but I enjoy it very much, because I don't have the stress of finding time for it with my daily work. The second volume of my book series 学習者を支援する日本語指導法 (Instructional methodology to support L2 learners) was published this month. In addition, I have been called upon to give lectures, evaluations, and projects. I am very grateful to be invited in this way, even though during my tenure I was mainly teaching students and almost always turned down outside work.

< Kazumi in 2023 >



In June, I had lunch at a tempura restaurant in Nagoya's Yanagibashi Central Market with students participating in a summer program in Nagoya. I was happy to see that everyone was enjoying themselves.

After returning to Tokyo, I brought together my elementary school classmates and high school classmate for the first time in Akabane. The chemistry was perfect and they quickly became

brothers.

In July, I worked with Master Sankyo in Kanazawa for a rakugo event we had been conducting at the request of the PII (Princeton in Ishikawa) program. This event was held in person instead of online during the pandemic. After students' small storytelling, Master Sankyo performed "Tokisoba" and "Shinigami". I was nervous about the live subtitle after a long time.

Another long time July event was a high school class reunion, where our homeroom teacher, Mr. Sugiyama, who is over 90 years old, also showed his good health.

We will move to Kaihin-makuhari in March 2024. Kazumi will be on leave for a semester and stay in Japan until August. Please give him a call if you like.

Kazumi & Yukiko

***** A Happy New Year, 2024 *****