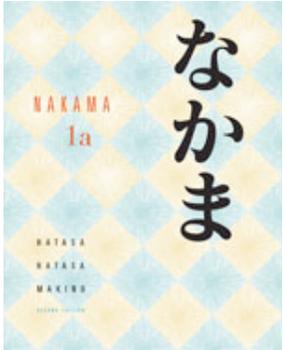


* * * * * Merry Christmas 2008 * * * * *

We apologize for not being able to send our annual letter last year. We are back this year.

2008 zipped through. The new edition of Nakama1 was released in August. A limited number of schools started using the new edition, and it has been receiving good reviews so far. We are in the middle of revising Nakama 2. Yukiko is in her second year at Hiroshima University. She keeps herself busy with writing research papers and teaching in a new environment. She feels very fortunate to be surrounded by very nice colleagues. Kazumi is at Purdue carrying his normal duties, and finished his fourth summer at Middlebury as the director.



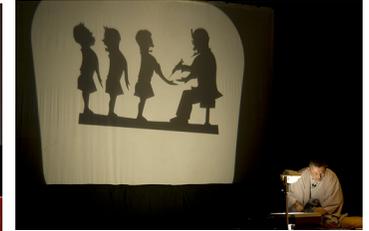
Although our physical distance increased somewhat, we have managed to spend time together in Japan and in the US. Yukiko came to the US to attend a conference in June and October. She also came here

during the summer and travelled to Middlebury, New York, Indiana and Iowa. (She spent most of her time cleaning and getting ready for a garage sale in Indiana.) Yukiko had a chance to visit Korea for the first time in July when she attended an international conference in Pusan. She enjoyed the trip very much. She also enjoy going to hot springs with her friends from the US and meeting with her old friends from her college in Tokyo.



Kazumi made his regular trip back to Japan in May and went to Hiroshima. We visited Miyajima. (We visited there for our honeymoon over twenty years ago with our American host family, Walter & Edna). At Middlebury in summer, Kazumi continued rakugo activity by having Masters Sankyo, Saryu, and Niiraku. This year, several first-year students

practiced short stories and performed on the stage as warm-up acts for the professionals. Master Sankyo performed a famous story entitled



“Shibahama.” Since it was my dream to have our students listen to this particular story, I was very happy to see this happen. Back at Purdue, four graduate students graduated, and four new students came in.



In October, Kazumi had an opportunity to accompany his boss and colleagues in a business trip to Japan. The trip with two Americans who do not understand Japanese at all and an American professor of Japanese literature who speaks fluent Japanese was bound to be interesting (if not, funny), and it certainly was. (and, a fun) But we accomplished what we were set up to do. (really)

Michael, Jeff, Kazumi & Steve seated in woman’s only section of a train in Tokyo (I wonder who took the photo. a security?)

Both animals have been healthy, and they seem to be getting along well with each other by the end of everyday. They have accompanied me during summer months in Vermont. Chibitan III is now designated as the school mascot, but students say she is the REAL director of the school. Lastly, we have managed to stay healthy, too.



We are planning to go to Borabora in Tahiti for our Christmas vacation. We have always wanted to go there. So, this is another dream-come-true.

We hope you will have a wonderful holiday season. Please take care.

Kazumi and Yukiko

P.S. Yukiko's current address:

<u>Work</u>	<u>Home</u>
Hiroshima University Graduate School of Education	2-501 Gagara Daini Shokuin Shukusha
Department of Teaching Japanese as a Second Language	2-360-2 Kagamiyama, Higashi-Hiroshima-shi
1-1-1 Kagamiyama, Higashi-Hiroshimas-shi, Japan 739-8524	Japan 739-0046

Phone: 082-424-6867

Email: yhatasa@hiroshima-u.ac.jp or yhatasa@hotmaill.com

* * * * * A Happy New Year 2 0 0 9 * * * * *