

# THE JAPAN VOICE

COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' Viewpoints

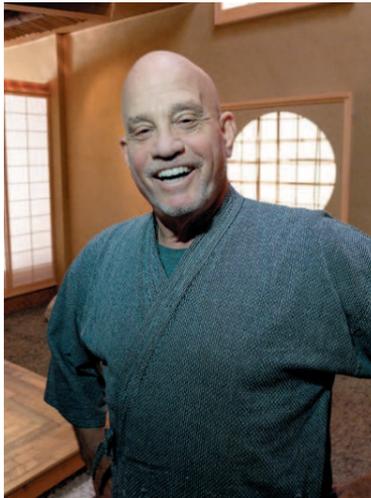
## A Japanese-style Tearoom in Manhattan Made by Stephen Globus Contributes to Spreading Japanese Culture

Everyone mentions the name Stephen Globus when it comes to a pro-Japan New Yorker who has been striving to introduce Japanese culture. Mr. Globus is the owner of a Japanese-style tearoom called "Keisui-an," and he has been supporting activities that introduce Japanese culture from traditional to modern art. "Keisui-an" is a classical style penthouse located north of Union Square, very close to Broadway. It is almost impossible to imagine there is

Fifteen years ago, he created a Japanese-style library on the seventh floor of the building. The Japanese who lived in New York began to notice the rare tatami-floored room, and those who wanted to teach Japanese tea ceremonies and hold kimono exhibitions increasingly asked him about his Japanese-style room.

Yet, Mr. Globus was still not satisfied with his Japanese-style room. Receiving several requests such as having a *mizuya* (a washing place for utensils) and a *tokonoma* (a Japanese-style recessed alcove), Mr. Globus decided to create an authentic Japanese-style tearoom. In 2012, he created a tearoom measuring 8.5 tatami mats called "Keisui-an" in the penthouse area which used to be utilized for storage, consulting with a tea master and Mr. Hisao Hanabusa of Miya Shoji.

With a desire to let other New Yorkers know his amazement and excitement for experiencing different cultures, he has been contributing to the activities of Japan Society for



Stephen Globus

many years. Every spring, he sponsors "Globus Film Series", which features films with specific topics. He also sponsors "Japan Cuts," which introduces the latest Japanese movies every summer. In addition to those activities, he supports the educational program, called "Beyond Tomorrow," which was started to support orphaned students from the Great East Japan Earthquake by organizing a dinner for them when students visit the United States to participate in a study tour. When he goes to Japan, he visits the earthquake disaster-stricken area of Fukushima with-



out fail.

Recently, he enthusiastically supports Japanese contemporary art. He supports budding Japanese artists with their travel expenses and accommodations; he also supports them when they hold personal exhibitions, cooperating with Ronin Gallery. Now, he is a sponsor of a grand prize for an

annual group exhibition called "J Collabo" in Brooklyn. He raves about Japan, saying, "All the foods in Japan are delicious. Besides that, the Japanese are quiet, thoughtful and also patient. My enthusiasm and passion for Japan never ceases."

(Kaoru Komi/Photo by Ryoichi Miura/Translated by Satoshi Sueyoshi)

The Japan News  
by The Yomiuri Shimbun  
[https://www.yomiuri-info.jp/daily\\_yomiuri/nys/](https://www.yomiuri-info.jp/daily_yomiuri/nys/)

such a Japanese-style space judging from the building's exterior.

Mr. Globus, who is a venture capitalist, started visiting Japan in 1996. He was involved in the invention of internal parts for color plasma television sets. He used to go to Osaka and Kyoto every three months and stayed there for about two weeks whenever he went there.

## GIFT FOR THE CHILDREN JAPANESE RESTAURANT OWNERS DONATE TO EAST VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT



On December 16, a Christmas charity event for kids was held in the East Village at the New York Police Department's Ninth Precinct. A total of \$4,000 was donated to the event by four Japanese: Shuho Bon Yagi, president of T.I.C. Restaurant Group which runs restaurants in New York City including the East Village; Hiroyuki Takahashi, owner of Takahachi Restaurant; Norimitsu Nishida, owner of Ramen Misoya and Yoshio Takeda, CEO of Daiei Trading Co. Inc., a Japanese food importer. The event started forty years ago when the area was known as a poor safety and low income residential area.

Mr. Yagi has been contributing to this event since 1996. In the beginning, the number of participants was only around 100, but now the event has become so popular that as many as 2,500 kids come to the event. Some participants even come around 2:30 a.m. to wait in line for the Christmas present distribution which starts at 9:00 a.m. After making this year's donation, Mr. Nishida said, "Thanks to the people around this area, I have been able to

run my business. I would like to show my gratitude." Mr. Takahashi also expressed his appreciation by saying, "Supported by customers who love my restaurant, I have been doing my business for 27 years here in the East Village. I would like to contribute to this area by supporting this event." Mr. Yagi, who was given the 11th Award for Overseas Promotion of Japanese Food by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries expressed his willingness to commit to this area by saying, "As the saying goes, continuous effort pays off. Through this Christmas event, I would like the East Village to be a place full of hope for kids. I hope these kids will grow up and eventually contribute to vitalizing this area." (Chihiro Fukushima/Translated by Atsushi Hashimoto)

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Advertisement

●Focusing historical issue from the overseas point of view chapter 1

## COMFORT WOMEN STATUES ARE SPREADING TO MANY CITIES IN THE U.S.

On November 22, 2017, Edwin Lee, Mayor of San Francisco officially endorsed the offer to annex the property containing statues of Comfort Women to City's public park located within its China Town. With this, the number of monuments having comfort women statues had increased to three. The first was the one in the City of Glendale in California installed in July 2013. The second was four years later in the City of Brookhaven, GA in June 2017. These are small and medium cities. San Francisco is the first one among big cities.

These three monuments have a statue of a Comfort Woman (three comfort women in the case of San Francisco) as the focal point. There have been several monuments in public places containing drawings of Comfort Women before. The first was the one at the entrance to the public library on Palisades Park, NJ installed in October 2010. This plaque reads: "In memory of the more than 200,000 women and girls who were abducted by the armed forces of the government of Imperial Japan 1930's-1945 known as 'comfort women,' they endured human right violations that no peoples should leave unrecog-

nized. Let us never forget the horrors of crimes against humanity." These descriptions contain several statements contrary to the historical facts, and are colored by anti-Japan sentiments. Later in 2012, a similar monument was built in Westbury, Nassau County outside of New York City. During 2013, another in Westbury, and a similar plaque in Hackensack, New Jersey were built. Then, in 2014, one in Fairfax County, VA, and another in Union City, NJ were erected. Since then, there was no activity for a while. This is due to the lawsuit against the City of Glendale as explained later. Then, when the lawsuit was about to end in the beginning of 2017, the erection of comfort women memorials has resumed.

These monuments have been built on the basis of the Resolution 121 against the Government of Japan which was approved in 2007 by the U.S. House of Representatives. This resolution was initiated ironically by Japanese-American, Mike Honda, then-Representative from a Silicon Valley district in California. This resolution was in turn based on the report on "Comfort Women" prepared by Special Reporter Radhika

Coomaraswamy for the United Nations. She asserted they were coercively recruited, and became "sex slaves," and endured extreme hardship going through repeated rapes, sexual violence, and abortions, and concluded that the system was the notable human trafficking of the twentieth century, and demanded apology to the Government of Japan. Even though this resolution was adopted in the House of Representatives, it was not discussed in the Senate. President Bush at the time kept some distance to the resolution. There are three important points in the resolution: (1) they were coercively recruited, (2) they were sex-slaves without freedom, and (3) the Government of Japan committed crimes of human rights violations.

Not only the resolution has led several cities to erect monuments for comfort women, but several states and cities have also made resolutions accusing the Government of Japan. They include States of New York, New Jersey, and Illinois, and cities of Milpitas, Fullerton and San Francisco, all in California. This biased understanding of Comfort Women was originated from the U.N. Special Reporter's report as stated above, and the

report was made after a brief visit to Japan, South Korea, and North Korea (which was planned, but not visited). Thus, it was written largely on the basis of a book written by George Hicks, which was one of very few books written on Comfort Women at the time. Then, this book was written by believing the stories of girls hunting by gun-point written in *My War Crimes* by Seiji Yoshida, which was already discredited at the time. Thus, the Coomaraswamy report is not credible either. As I shall describe subsequently, the honor of Japan was hurt seriously by a careless report by the United Nations. The report spread the news of human rights violations around the world, and accused Japan for crimes of human rights violations which were not committed. The South Korean people, which is competing with Japan in every occasion, found this report highly usable for the purpose of disdaining Japan. Thus, they are promoting the spirit of the Resolution 121, and installing the statues of Comfort Women in every possible location within the United States

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