

Letter From NEW YORKERS

Sub-standard Dan McDonald

"Attention passengers. We are delayed momentarily due to [blank] at [blank]." If readers had a dollar for every time we heard that announcement on a New York City subway, well... we'd never have to ride one again.



Our sprawling transit system has the worst on-time performance of any major subway in the world. The signal system, installed around the time Babe Ruth was in Yankee pinstripes, is so antiquated workers do not know exactly where trains are and keep them a safe distance apart to avoid accidents.

For a person who has been a subway commuter in both cities, there is little consolation in a New York City subterranean misadventure. With so many people complaining about their jobs these days, however, perhaps the best advice is to just enjoy the delay.

THE JAPAN VOICE

COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' Viewpoints

Lecture on the Theory of Yin and Yang and the Five Elements in New York

A lecture on the Theory of Yin and Yang and the Five Elements, known as the old Chinese theory which national leaders traditionally learned as the art of kingcraft, was held at the Japanese American Association of New York on March 19, where around fifty Japanese attended.

Having obtained attendees' dates of birth in advance, lecturer Yumiko Shido introduced the formula where each person's fortune is determined by their behavior in certain situations thrust upon them by the fate they were born with.



Yumiko Shido introduces the formula related to one's fortune at the lecture.



"The Sound of Breathing"

Noh Society Hosts Lecture and Performance Living National Treasure Genjiro Okura Noh actors Kiyonari Shimizu and Nobuyuki Kizuki

The Noh Society (led by President Setsuko Bouteille and headquartered in New York) hosted a lecture and performance titled, "The Sound of Breathing" at the Baruch Performing Arts Center on March 10.

The audience was invited to use their hands to simulate the drumming posture and rhythm, as well as to raise their voices when chanting Noh lyrics.

Such audience participation, together with the performances, provided an enjoyable exploration of the role of music and sound in the world of Noh.

WANTED Translator for the Japan Voice to translate articles from Japanese to English from home. Contact: miura@nyseikatsu.com



Kumiko Yoshii (left) and Scott Elliot (right)

Kumiko Yoshii Winner Smiles Upon Receiving Award from The New Group

Kumiko Yoshii, President of Gorgeous Entertainment, was awarded "The Michael Mendelson Award for Outstanding Commitment to Theater" for her excellent personal contribution from The New Group.

This year, Chloë Sevigny, an actress and fashion designer, and Kumiko Yoshii were awarded. Yoshii is the first Japanese recipient to win this award.



The award ceremony was held at Tribeca Rooftop as part of an annual dinner party on March 12. Ambassador Reiichiro Takahashi from the Consul General of Japan in New York and more than 300 people celebrated at the event.

During the award ceremony, Broadway's Harold Prince sent a video message, and Chairman John Gore and Scott Elliott, an artistic director of the group, applauded Yoshii's contribution.

Yoshii has served as a director of The New Group since 2008. (Ryoichi Miura/Translated by Yoshiko Takahashi)

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Focusing historical issue from the overseas point of view chapter 7

Japan Defamed by Seiji Yoshida and Asahi Newspaper

When we talk about comfort women, we have to refer to Seiji Yoshida. He published his book My War Crimes in 1983 and became a sensation. This book tells a story that when he received an order from the Western Military Command during the wartime of May 1943, he took several subordinates to Cheju Island of Korea and abducted 205 young women.

This book had been publicized widely by Asahi Newspaper. If this news were issued earlier in the postwar years, some of those who knew the comfort women issues well might have protested Asahi Newspaper as fake news to a possible result that the author confessed it was a novel.

have been as a result of the authority that Asahi Newspaper had acquired over the years.

However, there were several who doubted the contents of the book. First, some of the residents in Cheju Island raised questions. This book was translated into Korean and published in 1989. Immediately after its publication, local news reporter, Ms. Heo Young-seon visited the factory and fishing villages where Yoshida wrote he abducted young women without obtaining confirmation.

Nonetheless, Asahi Newspaper kept reporting the women hunting by Yoshida as historical records. Since the second half of 1991

when the issue of comfort women became a hot topic, Asahi Newspaper reported four times in one year on Yoshida's women hunting trip to Cheju Island.

Furthermore, Asahi Newspaper reported on its front page of the morning issue of January 11, 1992 the direct involvement of the Japanese military with comfort women. The article reported with an explanation by Professor Yoshimi Yoshiaki of Chuo University that a public document was discovered in the Archives of the Ministry of Defense which proved that the military was supervising and controlling the recruitment of comfort women and the installation of comfort stations.

gies" in his talk with his counterpart and in his talk to the South Korean Parliament, and promised "truth-finding" upon his return. It was reported that Miyazawa expressed "apologies and remorse" eight times during the talk with President Roh Tae-woo.

Since then, Japan undertook research on comfort women and could not find any support to the assertion of coercive recruitment. The stories told by Yoshida have been recognized as fiction. Especially during the year of 2014 in which the issue of comfort women became a hit issue, Asahi Newspaper, upon serious internal debates, had to make a public announcement on their errors.

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