

Letter From NEW YORKERS

Fall Is Upon Us by Kia Cheleen



In New York, the weather has become cooler and the humidity has dropped. We still have some beautifully sunny days where we can wear shorts and T-shirts, but in the evenings we need a light jacket or sweater.

In America, when we think of fall, we think of the leaves turning colors, searching for that perfect pumpkin, making them into jack-o-lanterns for Halloween and apple picking. We shift from going to the beach to enjoying the perfect hiking weather. Everywhere you go, there is pumpkin spice-flavored everything - coffee, cookies, ice cream and breads.

In Japan, the late summer and fall leads to typhoon season. It is still incredibly humid, but you need to wear some kind of light coat to protect yourself from the wind, rain and debris flying around. Umbrellas are virtually of no use. There is always some damage left behind in the towns which were in the path of each typhoon.

After the main typhoon season in Japan, the leaves are spectacular and become a destination. In fact, there are over 800 designated spots to see the changing fall leaves within Japan. Many of the spots are at temples or castles. The trees are lit up at night and events are created surrounding the changing leaves. Traffic to some of the destinations snakes through the surrounding towns, but it becomes a fun little road trip where you can try local food specialties and poke around in the little shops on the way.

I hope you enjoy celebrating fall no matter where you are! (Kia Cheleen is an inter-cultural consultant and a Japanese/English writer, translator and interpreter. Visit her website at www.gillespieglobal.net or e-mail her at kcheleen@gmail.com.)

THE JAPAN VOICE

COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' Viewpoints



The U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres shakes hands with Ms. Seiko Takase, daughter of Chiyoji Nakagawa, after ringing the Peace Bell.

Peace Bell Echoes At the United Nations

In observance of the annual International Day of Peace on the morning of September 21, the U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres and the U.N. President of the General Assembly María Fernanda Espinosa rang the Peace Bell in the Peace Garden to remind us to continue to strive for world peace.

The Peace Bell was donated by Chiyoji Nakagawa and installed in the garden in front of the U.N. headquarters in 1954, two years before Japan became a member of the United Nations.

Mr. Nakagawa was born in 1905 in Yawahama, Ehime Prefecture. After graduating from Waseda University, he joined Yohsu Bank. He worked as the manager of the Yoshida Branch office of the bank and Factory Manager of Meiji Seika Manufacturing before stepping into the political circle. He was elected as the mayor of Uwajima City in 1959. His sixth daughter, Ms. Seiko Takase, 70, inherited his will and founded the Association for the Preservation of the U.N. Peace Bell.

Ambassador Bessho attended the



event, along with the United Nations Messenger of Peace, Michael Douglas. When the bell was rung, he introduced Ms. Takase to the public. Then Secretary-General António Guterres said to her "Thank you for coming today." They shook hands and had a conversation.

(Photo and Article by Ryoichi Miura/Translated by Chikako Iwasaki)

25th Japanese Food & Restaurant Expo Presented by New York Mutual Trading

Mutual Trading Inc. of New York held the largest Japanese Food and Restaurant Expo on September 15 at the Metropolitan Pavilion in Manhattan. This year, its 25th year, a record high of 115 firms participated, including 24 new entries. President Kosei Yamamoto, who habitually says "The one who conquers New York conquers the world," mentioned that the base of Japanese food culture has been broadened to collaborate with different cultures from polarization in two directions. On that day, Consul Hironori Mizorogi of the New York Japanese Consulate (Economic Division) and Director Kazushige Hatakeyama of JETRO New York gave congratulatory speeches at the opening ceremony.

As the doors opened at 10:00 am, restaurant professionals rushed into

the building. Because this expo was intended for use by professional chefs and restaurant managers, not for general consumers, all the items lined up were what could be immediately used for cooking at restaurants, ranging from half processed foods, soups, condiments, noodles, rice, meats and frozen foods to even automatic sushi robots. A sake floor was set in the neighboring special events section, while cutlery and dinnerware were sold on the second floor, attracting the eyes of many chefs.

Attention was focused this year on corners for gluten-free and vegan food. Joint Farm of Niigata prefecture attracted many guests with its gluten-free noodles, while the second year participant Habutae-Tofu Co., from Kanazawa, received inquiries from all



over the U.S. The Stork-Nurtured brand rice (Koshihikari rice grown in Tajima, Hyogo Prefecture) expanded its sales roots for deliveries to famous Japanese restaurants in town. Furthermore, Somi Foods, well known for its noodle soups, drew attention with retort curry for institutional use, and Sun Noodle, the dominating supplier of noodles for ramen, now introduced that for lo mein. Thus, each firm brought in its new product.

(Photo and article by Ryoichi Miura /Translated by Kunio Shimura)



Mr. Hideo Ohno, chairman of Joint Farm from Niigata, Japan, shows his brown rice noodles to New Yorkers.

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