

**Letter From
NEW YORKERS**
**Japanese Language
in New York City**
Masuo Ichida

Although there are numerous private Japanese schools in the tri-state area, like the Japanese Children's Society in New Jersey or Keio Academy in White Plains, many public high schools also teach Japanese as a language. One such school is The Frederick Douglass Academy in Harlem. Also called FDA, this middle and high school was one of the first public schools in New York City to offer Japanese language to its students. After three levels of high school courses, students take the New York State Regents Exams in Japanese, a statewide exam that is a requirement for receiving a high school regents diploma. Students in the Japanese classes also visit Japan every year.

Other public schools in New York City that offer Japanese are Stuyvesant HS, Brooklyn Tech, Bronx Science (one of New York's Specialized High Schools), LaGuardia HS, Bayside HS, Francis Lewis HS, and High Tech HS. Ms. Maiko Sato, a public school language teacher at Passaic County Technical Institute in New Jersey, teaches almost 200 students about Japanese language and culture annually, and has done so for twelve years. Students go on local class trips to Japanese markets, plays, and enjoy other activities in addition to studying vocabulary, grammar, hiragana, katakana and kanji.

There are a few thousand public high school students studying Japanese language and culture across the tri-state area. Studying Japanese has become increasingly widespread in the recent years, especially due to the popularity of manga and anime. With the coming 2020 Olympics in Tokyo, they are slated to hire tens of thousands of part-time employees and volunteers that speak some Japanese. For more information, visit <https://tokyo2020.org/en/>.

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Anything

THE JAPAN VOICE

COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' Viewpoints

United Nation's Secretariat Makes Move

In Response to the Japanese UN Mission's Call for More Information for the Tour guide on the Peace Bell



The Peace Bell in front of the UN building (Photo: Ryoichi Miura)

At the Japanese garden, located in the front courtyard of the United Nations Headquarters, the Japanese Peace Bell is rung by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the United Nations General Assembly every September. This is an annual event praying for peace, which occurs around the time when the General Assembly takes place. It is known as the place that is

selves, a description was made and will soon be handed over to the UN Headquarters with the support of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations.

This manual was made upon the request of Ms. Seiko Takase (age 70, from Uwajima-shi, Ehime Prefecture, residing in Tokyo), the daughter of Chiyogi Nakagawa, who committed to placing the bell at the UN Headquarters. As the representative of the Association for the Preservation of UN Peace Bell, she follows the will of her father by working to bring awareness to world peace. While visiting the UN Headquarters a few times, she discovered that the origin of the bell and the



Seiko Takase

国連平和の鐘とは

ニューヨーク国連本部にある日本の平和の鐘は、故・中川千代治氏が、1954年6月に日本国連連合協会を通じて鳴木本部に贈呈されたのです。「二度と戦争をしてはいけないと強い意志を胸に、戦争の悲惨さ、核廃絶を訴えて世界を回り、ローマ法王から頂いた金貨や子供達を含む応援する多くの人々から頂いた硬貨や金属を入れて鋳造したものです。



故・中川千代治
Chiyoji NAKAGAWA

日本から国連に贈呈された唯一の品です。国連では毎年国際平和と多様性に、各國代表出席のもと、国連事務総長が世界平和を祈念して平和の鐘の鍛打式を行います。

世界絶対平和萬歳の祈り

「平和の鐘」に刻まれた「世界絶対平和萬歳」の文字と壇座のマークは、世界が絶対にいまでも平和であって欲しいという千代治の願いです。壇木の当る處の月桂樹と日月は、夫婦の和、家庭の和、家族的世界の和を示しています。中の丸は太陽、三日月がそれを支え、その周りを平和の象徴である月桂樹が囲んでいます。太陽は男性を、月は女性を意味しています。



What is the UN Peace Bell?

The UN Peace Bell, hung in the yard at the UN Headquarters in New York, was donated in June 1954 by the late Chiyoji Nakagawa of Japan through the United Nations Association of Japan. Nakagawa had this Peace Bell made of innumerable coins and other metal pieces provided by the many people of all ages he encountered during his visits overseas, including the UN Representatives from over 60 countries, as well as gold coins donated by Pope Pius XII. Nakagawa worked tirelessly all his life to spread his firm belief that "humanity must not engage in warfare again". He visited many countries to convey the horrors of war he went through, and called for the abolition of nuclear weapons. The Peace Bell is the only gift Japan has presented to the United Nations.

Every year, on the International Day of Peace, the Secretary-General conducts the ceremonial ringing of the Peace Bell at the UN Headquarters, with representatives of Member States attending, wishing for world peace.

Prayer for "Absolute World Peace"

The inscription "Long Live Absolute World Peace" and the symbolic mark on the bell epitomize Nakagawa's strong wish for peace. The laurel with the sun and the moon, where the baton strikes the bell, conveys the harmony of a married couple, family happiness and peace of the unified world. The circle in the center represents the sun and the crescent moon holds it up, while the laurel embraces all. The sun symbolizes the male, the moon the female, and the laurel peace.

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Haiku is a poem following the syllabic pattern of 5-7-5.

● Haiku in English may consider the following as a model:

Across the still lake
through upcurls of morning mist
The cry of a loon

- O. Mabson Southard

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longings for peace attached to it were not explained well; therefore, she requested to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations for a more thorough explanation for the visitors. In response, last year in December, Ambassador Yasuhisa Kawamura requested to the UN Department of Public Information for the improvement of the Peace Bell guide. The department response was friendly, with the cooperation of The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, a manual in both English and Japanese was created; hereafter, this creation will be useful for explanations for UN visitors. (Written by Ryoichi Miura/Translated by Ai Omae)