

The articles which were written in Japanese are directly translated into English.



## Azabu Gakuen Jr. High School and High School

Azabu is a town which has its own heritage. The town names have changed, buildings have been dismantled and people have come and gone but there is something which exists here which hasn't changed. It's not something which is tangible but more psychological and not something that is visible.

Azabu Gakuen High School which we introduce you to this time also falls under this logic. Although this is a town in Japan which has gone through advanced changes, Azabu Gakuen High School has a long un-changed history which exists..

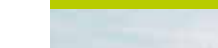
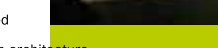
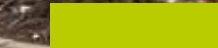
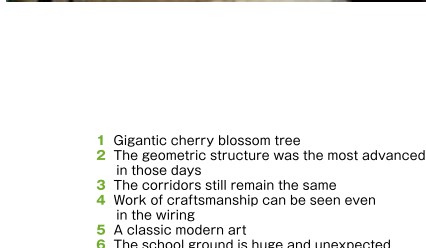
The school which locates itself on top of the hill of Moto-Azabu, is famous to many as one of the top three elite academic schools. However, unless you are a resident, one would probably not notice the school main gate as it is so small. Its gates open facing an upscale residential area.

The building itself is a normal school building Azabu High School was founded by Mr. Soroku Ebara in 1895 On the fall of the Tokugawa Government he fought as a commander and escaped death by a hairbreadth. As if to prove this, as one walks toward the back, one will notice a very old looking school building, which goes against the trend of these modern days. This was the school building which was built in 1932, after the earthquake. It makes you feel as if you have stepped into a past from an old movie but you are shaken back to reality when the high rise of Roppongi Hills appears before your eyes or when you see the present day students walking the school ground.

The school policy is a consistent six-year education which allows the students to spend a fruitful six years' school life. The students can cultivate their thoughts without having to go through the agony of studying for a high school entrance examination. The school motto of independence, self-discipline and liberty has been the school tradition. Having said that, the students between 12 years to 18 years old go through a susceptible period in their life at this one location, and there is an environment which does exist which is different from the modern days in which students respect and aspire towards their senior students.

These students are the chosen and go onto society in core positions after they graduate but the students you meet in the school building are normal carefree modern day youngsters. There is no uniform and there is even space to lie down inside the library. Loud music can be heard during break time as the students dance around. In other words, there is freedom but this is because the teachers trust their students and maybe this is where one can see the power of tradition this school has.

(Interviewed & written by: Hikaru Takahashi)



10 The school building back in 1932

9 Basically everyone brings lunch boxes but a cafeteria is also available. Of course, it's cheap

8 The faculty rooms are all the same

7 The library which is of high quality modern architecture is also student friendly

6 The school ground is huge and unexpected in size which is hidden from the street

5 A classic modern art

4 Work of craftsmanship can be seen even in the wiring

3 The corridors still remain the same

2 The geometric structure was the most advanced in those days

1 Gigantic cherry blossom tree



# Traditional Performing Arts Rooted In Azabu

Roppongi has transformed itself into an artistic town and is known as an art spot. However, art is not only in the form of visual appreciation. Another form is traditional arts which is a proud form of art in which Japan is known globally for. There are so many diverse forms of entertainment and one of those is "nagauta" long epic stories. Morio Sakaguchi (81 yrs old) passes down the wonderful technique and expression of nagauta in Roppongi. He was still a Keio Gijuku student when he became the grand nagauta master in 1940. He is the 7th generation grand master Kineya Katsusaburo and director of the "Kinekatsu-kai" and also is a great performer of the shamisen.



in the U.K and then to London. We performed at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (note 3) for 2 months and then crossed the Strait of Dover in a passenger vessel, took a train from there and finally arrived in Paris. We played in Paris for 2 months. Then went to Amsterdam in Holland. We would start performing at 8 p.m. and end at 11p.m. I would go to bed at 1 a.m. and go on sightseeing tours during the day. We then crossed over to the United States and performed at the Metropolitan in New York. We traveled to 36 states on bus. There were so many 2nd generation Japanese in Los Angeles, even pupils! I really enjoyed the Japanese meals we had there. Having no money was not a problem because I was a bachelor. We traveled to San Francisco, Vancouver and then split there.

This tour was promoted by world famous producer Mr. Sor Hurok. It is said that if Hurok set eyes on you then you would make it. That's how big of a promoter Sal Hurok is. It was the first time for Japanese traditional art to go abroad but the music and dancing performed turned out to be a great success.

My mother was teaching on her own while I was performing overseas. We used to live in an old shed at Roppongi 3 chome, but, when I came back it was a 2 storied house. If I had been around she wouldn't have probably been able to build it (laughs). The theaters were back in business and I started performing. But I was playing around when I was in my thirties (laughs). My friends from Keio were all over the place that I used to travel a lot. I got married when I was 37 years old. My son started to learn from a teacher when he was 6 years old on June 6th... He was into rugby during his high school days but I wasn't worried. He could play the shamisen and I knew what it was like during my young days as well. I felt it was much better to experience many things in life. I felt that he should enjoy his student life. My son (note: 4) is a very patient teacher which is quite different from me (laughs). I never really like the grand master system. Don't you think it's feudalistic? That's why I changed it to a foundation in 1967. Don't you think that's more open?

I've lived in this area all my life so I have lots of friends from my Azabu Elementary School days. We still hold class reunions once a year. We have lunch together and take pictures. I also go the beach at Hayama once a month. I love the sea. I love it because it's so huge. I love to go everywhere. If I was reborn...I would probably want to travel all around the world on a ship. I would go crazy if I did the same routine everyday like wake up and eat day in and day out. You have to love people and be curious. If I lost my curiosity, life wouldn't be worth living.

Incidentally, Morio appeared as a guest on NHK's 2nd series of "Quintessence of Arts" after this interview. I was taken in by the magic of this performance. It made me think how it must feel to have to take the burden of responsibility of the shamisen nagauta tradition. In addition, that he kept this tradition going through the war and during his young days as a Keio boy. He then changed the group to a foundation and has creatively tried many new things and now has over 1,000 students all of the world. The Edokko power is awesome, to be able to do something like so without a heartbeat. It's the Japanese DNA that I have which makes me feel comfortable listening to the sound of the shamisen? I felt I didn't have to get up tight in coming contact with traditional arts. Tradition is so wonderful.

(Note 1) The eldest daughter of Katsusaburo III, and the 6th generation. His father was the 3rd generation Ichimura Kamezo, the kabuki actor. His father passed away when Morio was 9 years old.

(Note 2) Led by Azuma Tokuhō, the classical Japanese dancer

(Note 3) The Royal Opera House

(Note 4) Kineya Katsusaburo

(Interviewed by: Kumiko Omura, Miyuki Ito Written by: Miyuki Ito)

"AZABU - A Human Story"

麻布びと

The sound of the shamisen has to penetrate inside your body.

the 7th generation grand master Kineya Katsusaburo and director of the "Kinekatsu-kai" Morio Sakaguchi

I was born in a house which was in front of the Russian Embassy in Iikura. So I went to Azabu Elementary School. There's a saying that you should start traditional performing arts at 6 years old and on June 6th. So I started when I was 6 years old. My mother (note 1) taught me back then but soon she said that teaching at home wasn't good. You learn manners when you go to other people's homes, right? So I rode the tram to Suitengu everyday to get lessons. The only day off was Sunday. I was afraid of our maid who took care of me more than my mother in those days. I would come home from school and then she would take my shoes away from me. Since I was still a child, I would only practice 15 to 20 minutes everyday. This continued till I was about 14 or 15 years old. But I cut lessons when I was in junior high school because the maid wouldn't come with me. Then the teacher would call home and ask if I was sick and my mother would find out. I was then told that I needed to get a stamp on every time I went. You know like a roster. Then what I did was buy a stamp somewhere (laughing). By I truly feel that you should start practicing the shamisen, violin or piano when you are small. The sound has to penetrate inside your body.

Nagauta which is Japan's traditional performing arts is a kind of long epic song based on shamisen music which evolved together with kabuki dancing in the latter half of the seventeenth century. Nagauta is what accompanies kabuki to this day. Nagauta did not accompany kabuki performance from the end of the Edo period to the Meiji restoration. Mr. Sakaguchi was a very curious boy when he was young but he always practiced the shamisen and the music is a part of him. He entered Keio Gijyuku from junior high school under the old educational system.

War started and I was told that I should take the name, Kineya Katsusaburo since there was a lot of uncertainty of the future then. This was when I was 16 years old. Pretty soon, if you were doing music people accused of



The shamisen is like a part of this body to Mr. Sakaguchi.



being against the war and music was out for 2-3 years after the war. But I used to hold the shamisen at home. War ended when I was a 3rd grade preparatory school student. The Hiyoshi campus where the Faculty of Economy located was taken over by the U.S forces after the war and half of the Mita school building had burnt down from the air raid so we hardly had any classes. I think that's why I was able to graduate university (laughs). We were

the youngest class of the old system and the class above us went to war. I was lucky by a hairsbreadth. All halls to perform in had been destroyed by the air raid including the Kabukiza Theater. I was living with my mother and we had nothing to eat. We would go out to buy food to Chiba once a week but we had no friends in the countryside. Eating was our first priority for some time. I was probably about 25 or 26 years old when I was able to at last perform after the war. I was 29 years old when one of my distant relatives invited me to perform in the U.S and Europe and so I was on the road abroad for one year.

This group was the first group to take traditional Japanese dancing and shamisen performance abroad. It is the first global performance of the Azuma Kabuki (note2). The tour went to over ten European countries and the U.S and traveled to more than 40 cities and was a great success. Mr.Morio was the youngest performer in the group.

The group was about 34 to 35 people made up of shimaesen players, dancers, costume department, and hairdressers. I was the only bachelor. We could only take below 500 dollars in foreign currency at that time so we had to live from the money we got paid while abroad. The airplanes were propellers, We would fly for 5 hours and then fuel ... We finally arrived in Milan, Italy and traveled to the suburbs of a town called Genova to participate in the then just started Sanremo Music Festival. We started from there on our tour of Europe. We traveled from Sanremo to Cote d'Azur, across the Rhine River in Germany to travel to Hamburg, Copenhagen in Denmark, Stockholm, Edinburgh





## Even though it's cold outside, go enjoy walking with your baby who will love it!



**Information A**

● **Event Calendar at Iikura Children's Club**  
Tsubomi-chan, let's play together  
Program for toddlers  
Every Monday and Friday  
11:00-11:50  
Parent and child exercise classes  
10:30-11:30  
For Inquiries Please Contact  
Tel: 03-3583-6355

**Information B**

● **Information about Child Care Square Appia Azabu**  
Business Hours:  
10:00-18:00  
Eligibility: Children from 0-3 years old and parents residing in Minato City  
Usage:  
Need to prior-registration  
For Inquiries Please Contact  
Tel: 03-5114-9900

This continues from the last edition of taking a walk down Azabu in your baby stroller. We start from the Iikura Children's Club by the Akabanebashi Station ①. It's a new building which looks very clean and very security conscious. The doors will not open unless you call someone inside on the intercom. Why not drop by the Toddlers Room on the 3rd floor together with your baby to warm up a bit during the morning. (info A). Once it gets warm outside, you can go to the Iikura Park right in front of the building and play outside for awhile. You can also have lunch outside with your child as this park has a bulletin board posted in which it says, "You can have lunch with your child" ②.

Even if your child should get tired from playing too much, you have the stroller to put her or him on and then you can depart on your walk with Tokyo Tower behind you and head towards the Higashi Azabu Shopping Arcade. This shopping arcade makes you remember the old days and you can hold conversations with the friendly owners while you shop as well ③. The

grocery shop on Hatsune Street sells beets at a cheap price for borscht because they are located near the Russian Embassy. The owner will even explain to you how to make it ④. There's a general store on East Street which sells bottles with lids on so if you bought one of those, you can even make pickled beets ⑤.

Let's walk towards the Mamiana Park after you've enjoyed your shopping ⑥, and take a rest at the cafe by the park. It's easy to locate because the cafe has an olive tree and a symbol of frog, in addition to a spacious restroom where you can change your child's diapers. No need to worry even if you're with your child, they will welcome you ⑦.

It's starting to get cold outside, now that you've finished your snack. Cover your child with a blanket and go stroll down the path on the side of the park, walking between the line of trees to enjoy the fresh scent and let's head towards Azabu Juban ⑧. If you turn left at the Azabu Library, you will reach the Child Care Square Appia Azabu which opened in December. (info B). The

(Interview by: Yasuhiko Ozaki, Tsuneko Ishiyama, Toshie Suzuki  
Photograph & Written by: Toshie Suzuki)

I recommend that you install a fire alarm system in your homes for fire saving precautions. (Fire Management Subsection Chief Kataoka)



There are different types of jobs available in this world  
**Civil Service Worker**  
**Fire fighter**



Taichi in uniform. The uniform of this job he admires was 20 kilos and a little heavy for him.

### To provide children with energy to live



## Let's read this with your parents **KIDS' Hello Work**

**Protecting the community from disaster with consolidated teamwork and dedication.**

We visited the Azabu Fire Station of the Tokyo Fire Department with junior editor, Taichi Suzuki (6 years old) to interview Ladder Squadron Deputy Chief Koiva and Fire Management Subsection Chief Kataoka.

Taichi said he didn't quite understand the work of the firefighters but thought that the fire trucks were cool.

#### What does a firefighter do?

Ladder Squadron Deputy Chief Koiva: Well it can be broken down into 3 main pillars, activities during disasters, paramedic activities and firefighting activities. My responsibility as Deputy Chief is to keep the disaster of the fire at a minimum at these sites. There are different squadrons that make up firefighters which are the Pump Squadron, Ladder Squadron, Emergency & Rescue Squadron, Special Rescue Squadron and Guidance Squadron. I am a member of the Ladder Squadron.

There are 2 types of daily activities of a firefighter. It is divided into shift duties and daily duties and the Ladder Squadron works under shift duties. We come to work at 08:30 until 08:40 the next morning so we are on duty for 24 hours and 10 minutes. The first duty of the day starts

with transition duties from the shift before us. We then check the fire truck, do administrative work and then go on lunch break. We do physical workouts and firefighting activity training in the afternoon but if we are called to an emergency situation, we are ready to go anytime. A feature of the firefighters in the Azabu region is that we need to communicate with the foreign residents in this area so we are enthusiastic in creating words of call outs in foreign languages and also create our own maps in detail about locations of fire hydrants and streets which can be used during emergency situations.

Fire Management Subsection Chief Kataoka: What we do is create plans on fire prevention, conduct investigations on reasons on causes of fires so we can use this information to prevent future fires from occurring and coaching on fire prevention. We also give advice on fire prevention of new buildings at the time of designing so we can prevent fires, conduct investigations during the building process and make rounds regularly after the building has been completed to check whether fire prevention measures are being taken.

#### How did you start on this job?

Ladder Squadron Deputy Chief Koiva: In my case, there was a fire station right close to my house so fire prevention was something that I was familiar with and I watched the firefighters as they trained as well. I was influenced by news programs and special programs pertaining to firefighting and felt that I wanted to someday be of help to the people and contribute to society. Fire Management Subsection Chief Kataoka: The reason I chose this profession was because the

person I came into contact with when I was job hunting was such a nice person and I felt that I wanted to work in an environment where I could come in contact with that type of person. An important part of the job of a firefighter is to communicate with people. Team work is critical at disaster sites and disciplined training efforts and team work makes a big difference and provides us with opportunities to maximize our strength at disaster sites. You first have to take an entrance examination, study at the Fire Academy and after you graduate, and then on the job training. In addition, after you have experienced various divisions, you try to get licenses and work to get posted to the division you are aiming at.

#### To those of you who want to become firefighters...

Having a healthy body is critical for a firefighter's job. Working out helps strengthen your body as well. Energetic boys right now are probably good candidates for firefighters. You can experience being a firefighter at the Challenge Day in March at Azabu Juban or at the Azabu Festa in November. The Azabu Fire Station has applications out for Junior Members so please contact us if you are interested.

\*Azabu Fire Station  
Fire Prevention Section 03-3470-0119  
\*Boys and girls between 3rd grade of elementary school to 9th grade (3rd year of jr. high school)  
Details on job availability for firefighter  
<http://www.tfd.metro.tokyo.jp/hp-jinjika/guide2008/index.html>

Firefighters must be able to depart within one minute when commanded to go to the site of fire. Each member maximizes his efforts and works as a team when on duty. (Ladder Squadron Deputy Chief Koiva)



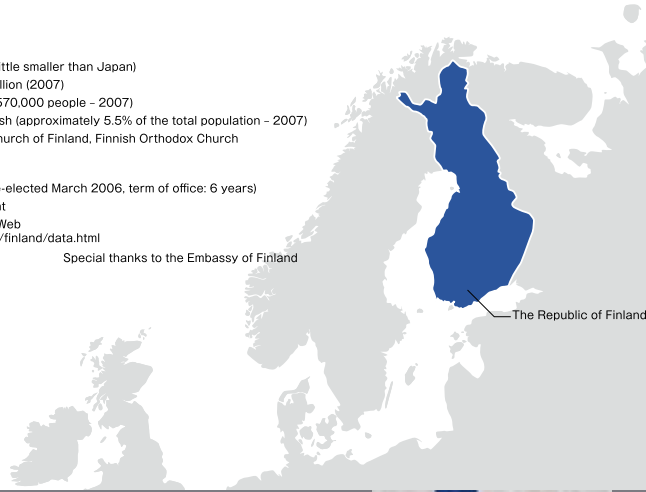
Work out trainings take place everyday to be prepared and to maximize performance at the site of disaster.

Taichi was more interested in watching the work out sessions and ladders than the actual interview. He was also able to wear a firefighter's uniform and his heart was already a junior member firefighter. He'll first have to apply for membership won't he?

(Interview by: Toshie Suzuki, Taichi Suzuki, Yoshie Ito, Kumiko Ohmura, Tsuneko Ishiyama  
Written by: Tsuneko Ishiyama)

The Republic of Finland  
 Area: 338,000 sq. kilometers (a little smaller than Japan)  
 Population: Approximately 5.3 million (2007)  
 Capital: Helsinki (approximately 570,000 people - 2007)  
 Official Language: Finnish, Swedish (approximately 5.5% of the total population - 2007)  
 Religion: Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, Finnish Orthodox Church  
 Government: Republic  
 Head of State: Tarja Halonen  
 (Female, elected March 2000, re-elected March 2006, term of office: 6 years)  
 Parliament: One-house parliament  
 Taken from the Foreign Ministry Web  
 Site: www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/finland/data.html

Special thanks to the Embassy of Finland



The Republic of Finland



2

## From the "World" of Azabu



# Finland

### Proud leader of education and advanced technology, and the country of Moomin and Santa Claus



3

Did you know that Finland's population is only 1/25 of Japan? The country itself is just a little smaller than Japan, but with the majority blanketed by a cold climate, it's not exactly a "blessed" environment. But they are number one in global competitiveness and IT power, and a leader in education and welfare. Finland is highly regarded around the world, more so than Japan. We asked H.E. Mr. Jorma Julin, Ambassador of Finland to Japan, about this mysterious Northern European country known for Moomin and Santa Claus.

When we asked the Ambassador of his country's global competitiveness, he told us that the key to their success was education, investment in IT, deregulation, an open market and sufficient social welfare. He gave us an example of their open market: Nokia, which holds over 40% of the global market share for mobile phones, does not produce the majority of its components in Finland. The country's policy to solicit economic activities within their unregulated free market is one reason behind the strength of their global competitiveness.

Education is the origin of Finland's success. Even though school hours are much less than in Japan, Finland has maintained a high international educational standard. This can be attributed to its thorough teacher education, relaxed regulations as seen with economic activities, hence transferring the majority of decision making power to local schools and teachers and ongoing teacher training and emphasis on interactive problem-solving through teachers' creative guidance. Japan has long suffered many problems with our educational system, and there are many things we can learn from Finland. Their universities are of the highest standard. On top of that, education is free. Naturally, one wonders about taxes. The average income tax rate in Finland is 30% to 40% (maximum 55%), and value-added tax is 22%—not low, to say the least. Consumption tax for books is 8%, a sign of Finland's emphasis on education. It makes sense that many countries are trying to learn from Finland. Even though taxes are high, the country has the highest level of education and social welfare in the world in addition to global market competitiveness.

We also asked about Finland's superstar, Moomin. Many of you are familiar with the story of the fairy Moomin, his family and friends, originally a novel by Tove Jansson

(1914-2001). "Moomin Philosophy" is actually subject taught in Japanese universities. The Ambassador described it as a philosophy of human nature encompassing friendship, tolerance, peace, and other important interpersonal values. Come to think of it, the Moomin stories I remember include serious dialogues and episodes. By reading Moomin children can learn to be sensitive toward others, as well as to think about how things develop and effective problem solving. They end up learning about "thinking" itself. This is why Moomin is loved to this day around the world.

The room in which we met the Ambassador was decorated with modern glass art, and beautiful paintings hung on the wall. The furniture and curtains were of a refined taste. Finland also puts great effort into the education of designers. World-renowned architect Alvar Aalto (1898-1976) created everything from buildings to furniture to glass art. Home furnishings and clothing brand Iittala, which does business globally, opened its first store in Ginza last month.

Now in his fourth year in Japan, Ambassador Julin says he likes the clean, safe and cosmopolitan neighborhood of Azabu. Having many restaurants to choose from was another attractive aspect. Though the population is different, he said Azabu reminded him of the Finnish capital, Helsinki. Finland seems very far away but is actually only a nine-and-a-half hour flight from Japan. It also welcomes the most Japanese tourists out of all Northern European countries. Wouldn't it be great to say "I'm off to see the aurora borealis and take in some great art this weekend"!



4



- 1 The flag of Finland is a blue Nordic cross on a white background. Blue represents lakes and sky; white represents snow. Finland is known for its many lakes.
- 2 Ambassador Julin sees similarities between Azabu and Helsinki.
- 3 Finland's Coat of Arms in the main entrance of the Embassy. Against a red background, a crowned lion stands upon a saber on its hind legs and brandishes a sword in an armored forepaw.
- 4 Santa Claus and reindeer. The reindeer, made of straw with an affectionately curving tail, is an example of traditional Finnish craft.



# Azabu-nista

A report on foreigners working in Azabu



Professor of Global Security Research Institute, Keio University

Dr. Aftab Seth

## To look towards the world and understand different ways of thinking

I live in Roppongi.

I first came to Japan in 1962 as a foreign exchange student between Delhi University and Keio University. I came to the university to study history, political science and the Japanese language. I graduated as the top of my class of Delhi University and graduated Oxford University's graduate course in 1967. I joined the Ministry of External Affairs for the Government of India and was posted in Beirut, Cyprus, Cairo, Hamburg, Jakarta and Karachi. I was also the Ambassador for India in Greece, Vietnam, Japan and the Federated States of Micronesia.

I am currently the professor of Global Security Research Institute at Keio University. I teach the students International Relations. There are approximately 50 students per class and the ratio between Japanese students and foreign students is about the same. My classes are held in English. I sometimes invite ambassadors from countries such as Afghanistan, Turkey, Iran and Russia as guest speakers and have them talk about topics such as diplomacy, politics and relations with Japan. I also have my students write reports and as well as make presentations of them. I also aggressively hold exchange with foreign universities.

The good thing about Japan is the technology it has which has considered the environment. Japan's technology especially on effective usage of energy without putting a burden on the environment should be implemented in developing countries. We expect

foreign students of the world to come study in Japan with technology such as electric vehicles and solar energy generation.

What I would like to tell the Japanese people is to please look at the world. Globalization means not only learning foreign languages but understanding different ideas. Many people in India speak English. Those who were born in India and have never left the country, speak English. They learned English from Indians living in India.

I go swimming at the Minato City Swimming Pool over the weekends and take walks. My favorite walking course is the street behind the Roppongi ANA Hotel towards Izumi Garden which is lined with trees and the road that runs through the residential area from Azabu Juban to the side street of the Australian Embassy. When I have time, I also go to the Arisugawanomiya Memorial Park. I like udon and Japanese nabe.

What I would like to do is build a school where the Indian children living in Minato City now can go to. I would like to turn that into an International School so the Japanese children can also learn there. I am looking for school facilities in Minato City which are currently not in use.

(Interviewed and written by: Shiho Ito)

Dr. Aftab Seth  
Professor of Global Securities  
Research Institute  
Keio University



## K's Nursing Care Memo ④

I don't know what to do.....

I would like to share with you my experience to this day in nursing K for those of you who are nursing at home but have not yet been certified for long-term care need.

All the family in the beginning got together to nurse for K but eventually, we started to feel that there was a limit to what we could do. So we decided that we should try to get certified for long-term care need but didn't have a clue as to what we had to do... When we thought about this and that if we did get certified that a care manager would be coming in addition to the home doctor, we thought our house is way too small for all this and had no place to put everything away. We thought it would be embarrassing to show this to outsiders and so it took some time for us to take that last step to register.

But I started to think. There would come a day that K would not be able to take a bath on her own or lead a normal day and so although the house was messy, we felt that it was important that we maintain the strength she had now. That way she would be healthier longer and that would make it easier for the family too. That was the conclusion we reached and we were able to overcome the issue we had.

We then went to Minato City and we ended up at the 2nd floor Support of the Elderly Sub-Section, Certificate for Long-term Care Need Division and inquired what we needed to do. They told us that we needed a medical certificate so we went to our local clinic and explained her current daily condition and had

the doctor examine K. We are unfortunately at level 5 of long-term care need currently but we were originally at level 2. Level 2 means that she was still at the preliminary stage and not that serious, which made us very happy. I felt that we would have to look long and hard at finding a care manager who would understand our living condition and how we nursed her. We were very fortunate and found a care manager at our first try. We then were very lucky to have a home doctor recommended to us.

It's said that all humans are the same when they are born but everyone lives a different life thereafter. It's easy to say nursing or supporting but everyone has different needs. That's why after you get certified for long-term care need, it's important you explain what your needs are rather than asking what they can do for you. My recommendation is that you find a care manager whom you can discuss your requirements with and come up with plans on how to support the daily needs.

There are times when you ask for support in the form of cooking and cleaning. Your doctor may also require you contact a physical therapist (PT) to get support on sustaining the muscles for life function. You can also discuss ways to prevent muscles from deteriorating or methods to sustain muscle strength as a form of treatment. There are also occupational therapists (OT) who give advice on having chopsticks, walking or how to continue with certain activities. There are also speech therapists (ST) who help prevent the loss of speaking which happens gradually. We have a

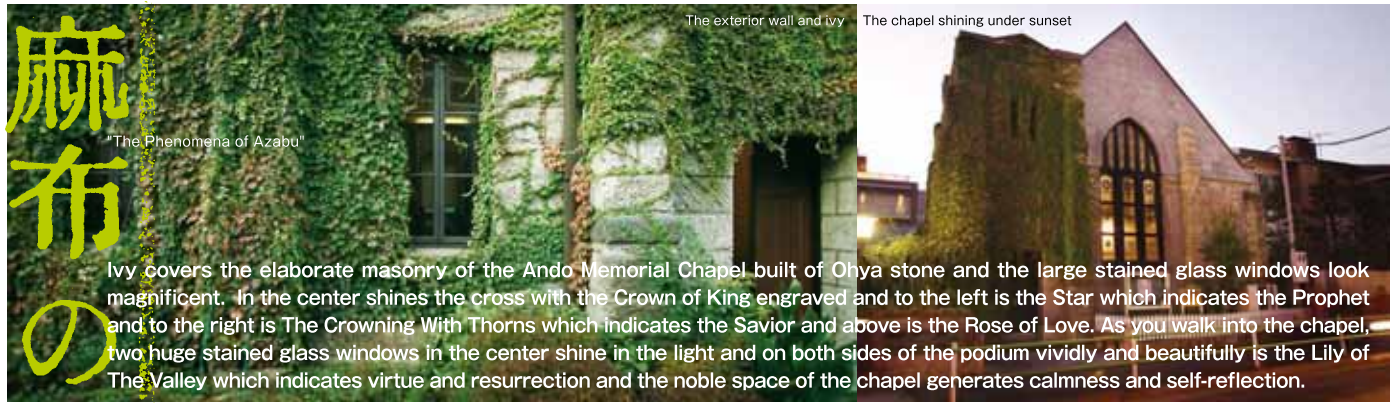
visiting nurse who help K bathes, and handles the percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG), feeding sustenance directly to the stomach and, in addition we can take K to Day Care. By availing such supports and care, your loved ones shall be able to lead a life as close to normal as possible, which is probably what they desire. Many other menus are available. We feel, if the family is trying hard, supporting persons try to be more creative.

Nursing K is not easy and sometimes it's very tough and sad, but I don't want to give up. So in order to break that wall, I use the public Nursing Care Insurance System and other support to nurse K by it. There are different ways to get nursing support and I can speak from my experience that there are ways to balance your daily life and health so you don't get stressed. You can even some time catch your breath while he or she is at Day Care.

Although we've done different way, her health is declining. Two people now helps K when she goes to the bathroom and feeding her is not easy. But we talk to her, so she doesn't feel isolated and when we do she looks very happy. Gratefully with everyone's help, K has remained very dear to us and she has an important place in our hearts. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the support they provide us.

You can ask for help at the Residents' Life Support Section, Health & Welfare Sub-section at the Azabu Regional City Office.

(M)



# 麻布の軌跡

"The Phenomena of Azabu"

Ivy covers the elaborate masonry of the Ando Memorial Chapel built of Ohya stone and the large stained glass windows look magnificent. In the center shines the cross with the Crown of King engraved and to the left is the Star which indicates the Prophet and to the right is The Crowning With Thorns which indicates the Savior and above is the Rose of Love. As you walk into the chapel, two huge stained glass windows in the center shine in the light and on both sides of the podium vividly and beautifully is the Lily of The Valley which indicates virtue and resurrection and the noble space of the chapel generates calmness and self-reflection.

## The United Church of Christ in Japan, Ando Memorial Chapel (Moto Azabu 2 chome 14-16)

### An Extraordinary Life

Taro Ando (1846-1924) studied about Chinese and Western literatures from when he was very small (note: 1). He became a student at the warship training center of the Japanese feudal government and studied English in Yokohama from James H. Ballah, a missionary priest (note: 2) Ando was assigned to the warship Kaiten as a naval cadet during the Battle of Hakodate in Aug. of 1868 led by Takeaki Enomoto. Enomoto in his battle with the Imperial troops surrendered in May of 1869 and Ando was also captured at the Goryoukaku and was imprisoned for one full year in a jail at Hakodate (note: 4)

Ando was released in 1870 and returned to Tokyo. He joined the Foreign Ministry in 1871 and was ordered to accompany Tomomi



The stained glass window of "The Lily Of The Valley"



Podium



The Crowning With Thorns

Stained glass



Priest Eiji Sano

Iwakura Ambassador Extraordinary and plenipotentiary of world journey known as the Iwakura mission to visit the United States and Europe. (note: 5) He was appointed Consular for Hong Kong in 1877, then Consular for Hawaii and after a position as the Bureau Chief for the International Trade Administration of the Foreign Ministry, he was appointed as the Bureau Chief for Commerce and Industry of the Agriculture and Commerce Ministry and retired in April of 1897.

He spent the remainder of his life in missionary activities and the non-alcoholic movement. He became the Chairman of the Tokyo Temperance Society in 1890 (note: 6)

### Encounter with Christianity

During his day as the Consular for Hawaii, he also put in a lot of effort in trying to improve the labor situation for the immigrants and by chance through the cooperation of Reverend Kanichi Miyama, he also helped in improving the lives of the immigrant who were involved in drinking brawls (note: 7). Ando, himself, was a heavy drinker and became ill and failed at times and gave his wife, Fumiko, a hard time. His encounter with Christianity became a turning point in his life and along with his wife, Fumiko, became active as missionaries, fought against alcohol and converted together and were baptized together in July of 1888 in Hawaii (note: 8)

After returning to Japan in 1889, he met with Christian Sen Tsuda (1837-1908) in Yokohama who was fighting against alcohol. Tsuda happened to be the father of Umeko an exchange student who accompanied the journey to the United States and Europe. (note: 10) Tsuda accompanied the journey to the United States in 1867 and was instrumental in the cultivation of western vegetables such as asparagus, grapes and Netherland strawberries. He founded the School for Studies on Agriculture and published the Agricultural Magazine (note 11). The Tsuda farm where Kaishu Katsu's daughter in law, Clara, picked strawberries and received beautiful scented roses, was located at Azabu Honmura-cho 178. (note:12)



According to Reverend Sano of Ando Memorial Chapel, the warm relationship between Ando and Tsuda enhanced the purchase in 1890 (note:13) of the land where the current Azabu Chapel is located (former Azabu Honmura-cho22) as well as its relocation.

### Building the Azabu Memorial Chapel

After his wife Fumiko who loved roses and paintings passed away in December of 1915, he put in all his money on the construction of the chapel which was a promise he had made with his wife. (note: 14) Choichi Yoshitake (1879-1953) (note: 15) the architect who later designed the Kamakura Church was recommended by the church members, Kikuyoshi Kashiwagi was appointed as the builder and the masonry was built from Ohya stone and the roof was made from natural slate. The construction started on April 11, 1917 and completed on Aug. 12th.(note: 16) The chapel was renovated after damages from the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923 and the chapel has gone through 4 renovations including to replace the Ohya stone. The stained glass was created by Sanchi Ogawa (1867-1928) who studied stained glass in the United States. During his training days, Ogawa was greatly awed, when he witnessed at a Cathedral, where the stained glass complimented the music from the pipe organ. (note:17)

### The Grace of God Reflected on the Stained Glass

It is through the grace of God and his helping hand which made the construction of the chapel possible including the life led by Taro Ando.

In an area where it can only be seen from inside the chapel on the stained glass window as you enter the chapel are texts commemorating the first baptisms in Hawaii of the Japanese.

I think I can understand how his appointment to Hawaii was a meaningful page in his life and how it must have saved his spirit. Taro Ando entrusted his faith in God and this is where the crystal of his life eternally has rested

The Ando Memorial Chapel has been designated as Minato City's Historical Building No. 123.

Interview cooperation by the Ando Memorial Chapel Reverend Eiji Sano

- (note: 1) Hajime Nagata "Writings of Taro Ando" pg 7 The Japanese Citizens Temperance Union
- (note: 2) Tetsu Numata "Ando Taro Ate Enomoto Takeaki Shokan" pg 49 14th Edition of Aoyama History Studies
- (note: 3) Yasuharu Iihisa "Ando Taro Kankei Bunsho Mokuroku" pg 34 Aoyama Gakuin Data Center
- (note: 4) Hajime Nagata op.cit. pg 7, pg 14
- (note: 5) Yasuharu Iihisa op.cit. pg 34
- (note: 6) The United Church of Christ in Japan, Ando Memorial Chapel "Ando Sensei Ryakuden" pg 5
- (note: 7) The Ando Memorial Chapel 70 Year History Editing Committee on Ando Memorial Chapel 70 Year History pg 13-14
- (note: 8) The Ando Memorial Chapel 70 Year History Editing Committee op.cit. pg 15, pg 19
- (note: 9) The Ando Memorial Chapel 70 Year History Editing Committee op.cit. pg 22
- (note:10) Souji Takasaki Tsuda Sen Hyouden pg 105-106 Sofukan
- (note:11) Soshi Takasaki op.cit. pg 41 pg 55
- (note:12) Written by the Whitney CLARA Translated by Tamiko Kazumata "Clara's Diary of the Meiji Era" pg 96. Kodansha Soshi Takasaki op.cit. pg 58
- (note:13) The Ando Memorial Chapel 70 Year History Editing Committee op.cit. pg 27
- (note:14) The Ando Memorial Chapel 70 Year History Editing Committee op.cit. pg 27-29 pg 33
- (note:15) Terunobu Fujimori "Japan's Modern Architecture" pg 58 vol.2 Index on names of people pg 9 Iwanami Shinsho
- (note:16) The Ando Memorial Chapel 70 Year History Editing Committee op.cit. pg 31-32
- (note:17) Written by Chio Tanabe Photograph by Akihisa Masuda The World of Sanchi Ogawa pg 15-16 Hakuyosha

(Interview: Sanae Minato, Satsuki Nishino, Akiko Hashimoto, Tsuneko Ishiyama, Akira Mori  
Written by: Akiko Hashimoto, Tsuneko Ishiyama, Akira Mori Title: Hikaru Takahashi)



## Living in AZABU

### "Early Spring Days"

It's early spring, released from the heavy winter coat.  
If I express of this season, it would be dainty pink.  
Don't you agree, Ladies?

Valentine's Day is close by ♡  
Only you can make my dreams come true,  
Dear Mr. Wonderful ♡

Some decoration tips, hang antique or antique like lace  
shawls on the wall or by the window.  
Café au lait bowls, crochet daisies, they be came lovely times  
among collection lovers in these years.

On the table, crepe with maple syrup or home made fruit  
sauce.

And spring time fresh salad, I prepare,  
My must, making Rocky Road with colorful miniature  
marshmallows.

In this country, we have SAKURA (cherry blossoms) cooking  
materials.

It stimulates my cooking desire!  
So I create my own dishes.

Soft winds entice me to take a short trip to the seaside town  
of Oiso, singing favorite song at heart ♪  
Wishing you dreamy spring.

(Illustration and written by: Sanae Minato)



### The Azabu Festa 2008 Took Place



The Azabu Festa 2008 took place covering all of the Azabu Regional City Office area on Nov. 9th (Sun) with the goal of promoting security and safety and energizing of the community.

The Azabu Festa 2008 was carried out at 4 sites; Azabu Civic Center (promoting security and safety), Minato Public Nursery School (exhibitions by the participants), the school grounds of the Toyo Eiwa Jyoshi Gakuin Jr. High and High School (rest areas) and the Torizaka site (stalls by the shopping arcade committee and town council etc.).

As a part of promoting security and safety, Mr. Yutaka Harada, the Chief of the Criminal Activities Studies of the National Research Institute of Police Science was invited as a guest speaker under the theme of "security and safety of the town". He pointed out that we should not only rely on the police on preventing crimes but that it was critical that volunteers get together on activities to prevent crimes. According to Mr. Harada, areas which have implemented this show a decline in the crime rate. The Azabu Police Department and Azabu

Fire Station were at the sites to assist in experiencing how to fight through the smoke in fires as well as trial rides on police motorbikes. Events which took place were maps on roads to get home by the Azabu Regional City Office, training on preparing meals outdoor, singing and dancing by the children of the nursery schools also took place in addition to exhibits by the users of the Children's



Hall and Social Welfare Center. Stalls by the shopping arcade committee and town council etc were also available.

Unfortunately, the day of the event was cold and very cloudy which turned to rain but you could hear the energetic and bright voices of the children as they enjoyed experiencing riding the fire truck ladder and the appearance of Pikachu.

We would like to thank everyone who participated, opened stalls and to those of you who came by.

The Azabu Regional City Office would like to make the Azabu Festa an even grander event and will commit in making plans to promote the safety and security of the Azabu region.

We look forward to your understanding and support.  
Thank you.

### Waiting for applications to those interested in "seminars by masters living in Azabu!"

As a trial case to "certify experts of the region" we will be supporting the project to develop community leaders who are knowledgeable about the history and tradition of the Azabu region. This project will be built by getting comments and opinions from those participating in it.

#### 1st Phase: "What kind of town is Azabu?" On the history of Azabu

Date: Jan. 22nd (Thurs), 2009 18:00- 20:30

Place: 3rd floor meeting room of Azabu Regional City Office

#### 2nd Phase: Adventure Walking In Azabu

Taking a walk in Azabu with an expert of the town

Date: Jan. 31st (Sat) 2009 13:00-16:30

#### Phase 3: Azabu and the Foreign Countries Foreigners residing in Azabu will discuss attractive points and issues of the town.

Date: Mid Feb., 2009 18:00-20:30

**Eligibility:** Residents, those working in and going to school in Azabu and anyone who is interested in Azabu.

**Place:** Azabu Regional City Office and other areas

**Fee:** Free

**Capacity:** 20 per venue

**Registration:** Registration by phone by Jan. 20th (Tues) (details will be explained upon registration.)



**For Inquiries Please Contact: The Azabu Regional City Office, Policy Management Section**

**Tel: 03-5114-8812**

### To Our Readers Please let us hear your comments.

Please let us hear your comments on our articles or about topics you want to be taken up. We would like to use this as reference to make an even more attractive newsletter.



Towels with former town names printed on them will be given as gifts to the readers who send in their comments and opinion.

Please contact the following with your name, age, address and occupation.

By telephone: 03-5114-8811 (Mon- Fri/ 09:00-17:00)

By fax: 03-3583-3782

By post: Editing Department of The Azabu, Azabu Regional City Office  
Roppongi 5-16-45, Minato-ku, Tokyo (105-8515)



# Information from the Azabu Regional City Office



## Announcement from the Azabu Regional City Office

### A presentation of the Azabu Regional City Office Basic Plan Version (proposal) from the Minato City Basic Plan will be held.

The Azabu Regional City Office since 2007, for two years has asked the residents to participate in creating the strategy for the Azabu Regional City Office Basic Plan in relation to the Minato City Basic Plan.

Please send in your opinions during the free viewing period.

**Venue 1: Date: Jan. 17 (Sat), 2009  
14:00-15:30  
Place: Honmura Welfare Hall**

**Venue 2: Date: Jan 19 (Mon), 2009  
18:30-20:00  
Place: Azabu Regional City Office, 2nd floor Life and Hygiene Center Hall**

#### Free Viewing Period:

Jan. 13 (Tues) - 28 (Weds), 2009

#### Free Viewing at:

Azabu Regional City Office, Policy Management Section

#### Opinions can be sent to:

Azabu Regional City Office, Policy Management Section  
(Please contact the Policy Management Section for details)

**Inquiries: Azabu Regional City Office, Policy Management Section  
Tel: 03-5114-8812**



## Announcement from the Tokyo Licensed Tax Accountant Association Azabu Branch

### Free tax consultation will be held in commemoration of the Tax Accountant Anniversary Day.

**Date: Feb. 19 (Thurs), 2009  
10:00-16:00**

**Place: Belle Vie Concourse, Akasaka Mitsuke Station**

**Contents:** 11 licensed tax accountants from the Azabu Branch will be available to provide consultation on taxes free of charge.

\*We will also provide consultation on Income Tax declarations.

**For Inquiries: Tokyo Licensed Tax Accountant Association Azabu Branch Executive Committee  
Tel: 03-3404-2886**

**Please Contact: Administrative Policy Director, Eiji Ohira**



## Announcement from Azabu Police Department

### Beware! That phone call may be fraud.

If you should get a phone call such as, "This is the tax department calling. You will be getting a tax return so please go to the convenience store and call us.", please call 110 or contact your local police station.

#### In order to avoid becoming a victim.

- Do not contact the sender if you receive notice to deposit money through the ATM.
- Do not believe the sender if you are told that there will be a tax return. Contact your local tax department to verify the information.
- "It's me, it's me (ore ore) fraud" is very popular however, during the tax deposit period, we expect to see an increase in fraud regarding tax returns.
- Please be aware because criminal groups also say there is medical fee returns etc.

### The Police Department provides telephone consultations to victims and their family.

#### If you are victimized:

- We will explain how investigations are conducted and how the criminal is punished.
- What type of requests the police department will be asking the victim and the family during the investigation.
- Please use the "Victims Hot Line" to find out about what system and organizations are available.

#### Victims Hot Line:

We want to see your smiling face again.  
~ Why not contact us? ~

**Tel: 03-3597-7830  
08:30-17:15**

**(excl. National holidays, Sat. & Sun)**

**Fax: 03-3592-6840**

**For inquiries please contact:  
The Azabu Police Department  
Tel: 03-3479-0110**



## Announcement from the Minato Metropolitan Tax Office

### For those possess residential land in the 23 wards:

#### Have you already declared your land?

#### Residential lands means:

Property used for housing.

- When you need to declare your property
- If you have renewed your house
- If you have taken down a part of or all of your house
- If you re-built your house
- If you have renovated or changed usage of your house partially
- If you have changed the usage of your land
- If your house has been destroyed due to disaster

**How to make declaration:** Please fill in the necessary information on the property tax application form and contact the Property Division of the tax office where your land is.

**Declaration period: Feb. 2 (Mon.), 2009**

**For inquiries please contact:  
The Minato Metropolitan Tax Office  
Tel: 03-3453-3211**



## Announcement from the Azabu Tax Office

### Please fill out your tax returns and declare it as early as possible.

#### Filing, Consultation and Tax Payments:

##### Income tax:

**Feb. 16 (Mon)-Mar. 16 (Mon), 2009**

##### Inheritance tax:

**Feb. 2 (Mon.) -Mar. 16 (Mon), 2009**

##### Consumption tax and local consumption tax for business owners:

**Jan. 5 (Mon) - Mar. 31 (Tues.), 2009**

Application, filing and consultation will not be conducted from Dec. 29th - Jan. 3rd, Sat., Sun and national holidays due to the tax office being closed. However, applications through e-tax and by post or mail delivery, or deposit into the Tax Office After Hour Deposit Box will be accepted.

#### For transfer accounts of tax payments:

**Transfer accounts for 2008 Tax Returns  
Apr. 22 (Weds), 2009**

#### Consumption tax and local consumption tax for business owners

**Apr. 27 (Mon), 2009**

Please contact the Management Division of the Tax Division for those who would like to make requests.



#### Please use e-tax for your final income tax returns.

- e-tax filing from the National Tax Agency homepage  
Use e-tax by accessing the "final income tax return corner" of the National Tax Agency.

- Maximum 5000 yen tax deduction  
If you add your digital signature when filing your 2008 income tax returns through e-tax, you can get up to a maximum of 5000 yen tax deduction. (Those who received this tax deduction for their 2007 tax returns will not be eligible)

- Abbreviating attached documents  
If you file your taxes through e-tax, you can abbreviate from attaching medical expense receipts and tax withholding statements so as long as the precise information is entered. (You may be asked to present these documents up to a maximum of 3 years after declaration.)

- Speedy process of repayment money  
Speedy procedures are taken for repayment money for declarations made by e-tax. (Procedures can be shortened by 3 weeks)

\*Beware of imposters that make out to be tax accountants when filing your taxes through a tax accountant.

\*Please refrain from using your car to come to the Azabu Tax Office as the parking space is very small.

**For inquiries please contact the Azabu Tax Office: Tel: 03-3403-0591**

**National Tax Agency homepage:  
<http://www.nta.go.jp>**

**e-tax homepage:  
<http://www.e-tax.nta.go.jp>**

## AZABU

- Location of the newsletter: Roppongi 1 chome, Roppongi, Hiroo, Azabu Juban subway station, Chi bus, Minato Library, Azabu Library, Azabu Welfare Hall, Nishi-Azabu Welfare Hall, Ikura Welfare Hall, Honmura Welfare Hall, Chirada Minato-So, Azabu Civic Center, Azabu Regional City Office etc.
- Usage of articles, illustrations and photographs in this newsletter is prohibited.

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Satsuki Nishino

Akiko Hashimoto  
Sanae Minato  
Akira Mori  
Ryozo Yamashita

### Editor's Note

Photo Studio in Azabu: Many families come to get their picture taken every year. The customers are not only those living close by but come from far away as well. This tradition of dressing up to get your picture taken at a photo studio when it is easy to take digital photos at home. Years ago everyone went to photo studios but it is becoming popular again. The photos capture a moment in life which is not one from your daily life. Formal pictures of the family probably provide the family a topic to talk about when looking back at the photos which were taken.



Minato City promotes preservation of greenery and waste reduction.

(Yasuhiko Ozaki)

### "Minato Call" information service.

Minato call is a new city information service, available in English every day from 7 a.m. - 11 p.m.

\*English speakers are also available

**Visit Minato Call at  
Tel: 03-5472-3710 Fax: 03-5777-8752  
E-mail: [info@minato.call-center.jp](mailto:info@minato.call-center.jp)**