



Kaleidoscope

MEGURO



Vol.
15

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Celebrating 100 Years of Friendship

2019 marks the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Poland and Japan. Since Meguro City is home to the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Tokyo, we decided to honor the occasion by interviewing Ms. Justyna Roguska, Deputy Director and Second Secretary of the Polish Institute in Tokyo housed in the embassy, to learn more about the anniversary.



©Polish Tourism Organisation

Is there a theme behind the different events of the year to celebrate the anniversary?

We are holding a Polish Cultural Festival that lasts the entire year by organizing events

throughout the year. We have created a logo based on the colors of red and white common to the two national flags, which serves as the official logo for all festival events.

Illumination in Japan



When winter arrives, people can enjoy all forms of illumination across the city.

Electricity first made its appearance in Japan in the Meiji era. It marked the end of the long

isolated-nation policy, and this is where modern western culture began to appear on the streets. One of its most symbolic icons was electric lighting. In 1882, countless people visited Tokyo Ginza to look at Japan's first electrically powered light (arc light) all the time.

In modern days, lighting is not only a necessity for our everyday life but also a form of entertainment which is capable of fascinating people.

Take a stroll on the street and find your favorite illumination spot!

What celebratory events are scheduled for the rest of the year?

The Śląsk Song and Dance Ensemble will go on a concert tour across the Kanto region from October 19th to November 20th. Furthermore, there will be a Polish Film Festival in Ebisu from November 10th to 23rd, and a Polish Festival in Tokyo International Forum on November 24th. Besides, a Polish pianist will join The Piano Era 2019 event in Meguro Persimmon Hall on December 1st, although that event is not part of the anniversary celebration.

Living in Japan, what commonality do you see between the two countries?

Poles and Japanese are both friendly and hospitable people. They also share a great appreciation for classical music especially that of Polish composer Fryderyk Chopin.

What are your favorite places in Meguro City?

First, I love the fact that there are many great parks for small children. The places I like in particular are Nakameguro for its many restaurants and cafes, Meguro River during cherry blossom season, and the park next to the Gohyaku Rakanji Temple. The park has a small hill that makes it a great playground for little kids.

In closing, we thank Ms. Roguska, the Polish Embassy, and the Polish Institute for granting us the interview.



Ms. Roguska and volunteers

Japanese Language Group CRAYONS

CRAYONS is a non-profit volunteers' group, fully run and managed by the members themselves. This group aims to learn from each other and bloom better human relationship in the community we live in, through assisting Japanese language learning among foreign residents.

This is an excerpt of an interview with Ms. Ishihara, the representative of the group.



Please tell us the basic characteristics of CRAYONS.

We are assisting foreign residents to learn Japanese language. But ours is not a formal school of language, thus, we don't have a traditional teacher-student relationship between them. Instead, both foreign and Japanese members are on the equal footings and learn from each other. Our goal is to make mutual relationship and trust stronger by having the same partner for a certain period of time thus deepening friendship every time they meet.

Is the partnership fixed for a long period?

Yes, as per our rule, partnership is one to one

and in some cases in a small group as well with the fixed partner for half a year. Our activities are not limited to learning Japanese language but expand beyond, up to exchanging information necessary for our daily life. Sometimes even private and personal matters are discussed.

Is it possible for anyone, anytime of the year to join this group?

Yes, both foreign and Japanese members can join us anytime. We neither ask for the language proficiency level of foreign learners nor teaching career of Japanese volunteers. Admission fee is 100 yen per session. We also have a room for child care. Average



At a nursery room

number of participants each time is around 85.

Please tell us the idea behind CRAYONS.

I have been working for twenty years at CRAYONS with a belief to pursue and realize a multicultural co-existent society. My wish is that, all our participants would feel comfortable and at home here and learn Japanese language with joy and ease. I believe this would help the sphere of multicultural co-existence expand in the society we live in.

For further information, refer to homepage of CRAYONS.

<https://www.nihongo-crayons.com>

Information about Japanese Language Group CRAYONS

Time: Thursday

10:00 -11:30 / 13:30 -15:00

Place: Nakameguro Square 9th Floor,
2-10-13 Nakameguro

Tel: 090-9973-8260

Let's enjoy *bonenkai* this year with sake!

Bonenkai (year-end drinking party) season is coming up. Which would you prefer, beer or wine for the party? Why don't you try raising a glass of sake (Japanese rice wine) when you say "*Kampai*" this year?

Made all across Japan, sake is said to have more than 20,000 brands with different regional tastes. Generally, alcohol content in sake is about 15%, a little higher than wine. There are many types of sake, with

differences mainly depending on the brewing method and ingredients, or the degree to which the rice used to make it has been milled. Aroma, taste, and food pairing of sake vary according to its type. For example, *Ginjoshu* has a fruity fragrance and simple taste, so it is best consumed with refreshing food such as seafood salad.

Sake can be enjoyed at a wide range of temperatures depending on the season. In

winter, it is a good idea to warm your body with *Atsukan* (hot sake served at 50°C).

In this *bonenkai* season, how about exploring a little bit to find your favorite sake?



New Flourishing Ground for Music in Meguro City

The new campus of Tokyo College of Music (TCM) opened on the hill between Nakameguro and Daikanyama on April 1st of 2019. The Meguro residents had been interested in the long-vacant construction site, and so we visited TCM for an interview. Three staff participated and taught us much about TCM.



TCM Hall

©東京音楽大学

Would you tell us about the history and the current state of TCM?

TCM was founded 112 years ago and the main campus was in Ikebukuro, Toshima city, but in order to expand education facilities we have moved to the new campus in Meguro City. Apart from classical music which is a core subject, we employ a pedagogy of liberal arts and a wide range of information technology.

Was there any special request from Meguro City office when opening the new campus?

We were requested to provide various kinds of music to Meguro residents through the open campus. Therefore, we held an exchange concert program of piano solo and piano-cello duet last June at TCM hall to celebrate a century anniversary since the

establishment of Poland-Japan diplomatic relations. The ambassador and people from Polish embassy and Meguro City office, and two hundred of Meguro residents who were lucky enough to get the concert ticket enjoyed the concert to their hearts' content. We believe we can offer the locals more opportunity to experience the culture, music and art between Poland and Japan. As for our connection with Meguro residents, we were able to fulfill the request from Tokyo Kyosai Hospital in Nakameguro and held a small concert of chamber music at the hospital. It was much appreciated by the patients and hospital staff. We will be holding a chamber music and orchestra concert this coming December at Meguro Persimmon Hall. (Tel:03-5701-2913)



TCM Studio



Midori no Kamakura Kaido Avenue

©東京音楽大学



Orchestra Hiroba Plaza

How do TCM graduates contribute to the society?

TCM graduates contribute to the society by becoming classical music players, music teachers and instructors of various music related institutes, some of them compose music for movies and TV dramas, play as studio musicians, become sound engineers around the music field. Some graduates work in private companies and public organizations.

What kind of international exchange activities do you have?

We have research class of Gamelan, an Indonesian musical instrument, and erhu lesson, a Chinese string instrument available for adults. Furthermore, we plan to hold an exchange concert with Taipei National University of the Arts (TUA) this November. TUA will send its Contemporary Music Ensemble (CME) to Japan sponsored by Government of Taiwan. CME consists of thirty excellent college students and they will play at TCM hall this November 11th at 16:30.

After the interview we were shown around the campus, 422 seats of TCM hall which is the main facility to deliver music, the rehearsal room with superb all-round sound effect, music studio with high quality musical equipment, library, cozy cafeteria and other campus facilities. Surprisingly, TCM hall is used for student lessons and recitals for within and outside TCM almost every day. Outside the school building, there is a path covered with green trees.

Meguro residents can enjoy taking a stroll on it. We are glad to know that musical activities are performed at such a pleasant environment. Finally, we would like to thank TCM staff for their hospitality by accepting the interview and showing us around the campus of TCM!

Rinse to remove stains

It's just a little extra effort for living in an eco-friendly manner.



will not be re-used but become waste. We ask you to cooperate with us through rinsing recyclables properly to protect the earth's environment and to build a sustainable recycle-based society.

Please dispose recyclables by following the steps described below.

1. Remove all contents, caps, and labels.
2. Rinse the inside to remove stains.
3. Place items in a transparent bag.

Please refer to MRG100, Meguro Garbage Reduce 100, for the detailed information on how to separate and dispose of waste items and recyclables. The pamphlets in English, Chinese and Korean are distributed at the Foreign Residents Information Desk (1st Floor, Main building, Meguro City Office Complex), Waste Management & Recycling

Section (6F), and Waste Collection Office, also available on the Meguro City Website.



MRG100 (Multilingual ver.)



In Meguro City, we ask for your help to rinse recyclable items, such as plastic containers and packages, PET bottles, bottles, or cans, to remove stains before disposing. Putting just a little extra effort is really important for our eco-friendly lives. If you don't rinse the inside well before putting recyclables out, it will not be accepted by collection trucks. The recyclables with stains are not recycled. They

World AIDS Day

Let's talk about HIV/AIDS Test, Treatment and Support!

December 1st is World AIDS Day. Meguro City will hold HIV/AIDS Prevention Panel Display to increase awareness, fight prejudice and improve education. Early detection of HIV can help ensure prompt treatment and prevent progression into AIDS. Why not take this opportunity to have an HIV/AIDS test?

HIV/AIDS Prevention Panel Display

Date: From Nov. 29 (Fri) to Dec. 5 (Thu)

Place: West entrance lobby, 1st Floor, Main building, Meguro City Office Complex

HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections Test

FREE and ANONYMOUS testing is provided at Meguro Public Health Center (by appointment only).

Details and Book appointments:

Call (03-5722-9896, Japanese only) or visit directly to the Public Health & Infections Control Section at Meguro City Office Complex.

All the Public Health Centers in Japan offer HIV testing.

Please read the following QR code for the details: "HIV Testing and HIV/AIDS Counseling Map in Japan".



Life in Tokyo
Website for Foreign Residents in Tokyo

www.lifein.tokyo.jp/en/

JAPANESE ENGLISH

Meguro City Newsletter

Easy to read even on the smartphone!



5 languages are now supported on an e-book version! Read in your own language! Supports Text-to-Speech!

Foreign Residents Information Desk

03-5722-9187
English

www.city.meguro.tokyo.jp/multi/index.html

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2-19-15 Kamimeguro
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MIFA Meguro International Friendship Association



<http://mifa.jp/en/>



Kaleidoscope MEGURO aims to embrace diversity and promote intercultural harmony.

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