

GAZETTE

H o l l y w o o d & W e s t w o o d



During this year, 2022, I managed to accomplish a project I had been planning for a long time. This project was to come to the United States. The first goal was to learn the language and to discover American culture in a concrete way. This project had many twists and turns. Between obtaining the residence permit and the plan changes, it was both rewarding and stressful.

Nevertheless, I am proud to have been able to realize this trip and to be able to live it now. Knowing that I worked for a long time, doing all sorts of jobs to make this possible. In the end it was all worth it.

Being unilingual, learning English is certainly the hardest thing I have ever done in my life. I am still in the early stages of being able to consider myself bilingual, but I know that with discipline, hard work and dedication, it will bring me closer to my goal every day.

By Julien Coyette

MY GOAL FOR 2023

In 2023, I would like to work at a Japanese school in Los Angeles! I came to Los Angeles in June, and started in the beginner class. After 5 months I was able to move up to the high intermediate class where I gradually began to understand English. I am scheduled to return to Japan in January, but I felt it would be a shame to return to Japan with my current English ability.

I worked as a P.E. teacher in Japan, and I thought I could use that experience in the U.S. to improve my English skills as well! And the reason I felt I wanted to stay in the U.S. more than anything else was because I met dear people who have become very good friends. I would also like to dance more in Los Angeles and perhaps I would be able to volunteer and do this in a Japanese school.

In the 27 years of my life I have lived, I feel that I'm having the most fun. I would like to continue this for years to come. I think I need to expand my community more in order to work in a Japanese school. For now, I would like to become more active so I'm going to go outside a lot in 2023 while living in the U.S., and not spend my days sleeping! This will prepare me and keep me in great shape to return as a P.E. teacher.

By Minayo Senko



MY UTOPIA

If I could change anything about the world, I would want to change basic social structures and the human way of life. As you know, we currently are surviving and living through a crazy money-driven, impersonal world. However, it's not our natural way of life because I believe we have the right to enjoy our life!

Today we live in a world where all we do is work to live, eat to work, sleep to work, but doesn't that seem to make us a puppet to money? This being said, means I want to change the world to be a happier and more colorful place. I believe that a humane way of life is a society in which we have the right to choose how we want to live because we are born to be happy!

I have come to prefer bright colors to brighten up the dark world. We must also remember to be considerate of others and value things that money cannot buy. Now, we need to reaffirm our humanity and the meaning of our birth, and face it calmly in order to protect human dignity and basic human rights. Remember to have fun and fill it with positive power and love.



By Kaori Toyosaki

IF I COULD *change* THE WORLD

If I could change the world this is what I would do:

First of all, I would ask God to show himself to all of us. I think this will help people who believe in God to gain more faith. Additionally, the other people who don't believe in God might change their mind more easily. After that God would be in charge of the world again, He knows how to change the world better than me.

What if God did not show himself? I have Plan B which is to ask an alien to show itself. I think they are also able to make the world better because when humans have the same enemy, it brings people together to fight with each other. This means no more war between humans. We will all be on the same side, standing in the same boat. In this case, if we won against the aliens that would be great, but if we lost, at least we would all be dead together. That would be better than the hate we have for each other now.



But what if both of them do not exist? I still have a Plan C, I am not a super smart person, I do many things that take time. I am not superman. I have no power to save lives quickly. So this is my plan. I would stop time. This means no one could move. Then I could fix some things slowly, one by one such as keeping kids away from moving cars.

I know it sounds childish but it is easy to understand. If I say I would stop increasing the entropy of the universe to keep good things moving on and keep bad things moving off, how many people would understand? How many people would care?

By Fubuki Nishikado



HOW I WOULD CHANGE THE WORLD

This question is not a simple question to answer since there are many things to change that do not work in the world. At the same time, to be able to make change you must at least be the President of some country but I think it is a hard job or role to take on. If I were a country's leader, I suppose I could start with simple changes because I believe that they can be solved.

For example, keeping the cities clean is not impossible to solve. There are thousands of retired people the government could use who are willing to work and there are many people who do nothing in the afternoon. It would be enough for the government to pay them a small hourly wage and everything would be resolved. I am convinced of this.

Other problems that in my opinion could be solved easily is the traffic in big cities. The use of electric motorbikes must become a habit and the states must finance and support this policy. Currently, each family has on average two or three cars for every four people. I think this is exaggerated and unnecessary, especially in cities where temperatures have a more moderate climate, so the use of the motorbike is also a pleasant way to get around.

By Carlo Buonopane



PRAYING AND WHAT IT MEANS TO ME

Born and raised in a Catholic Family, I can say that the most important gift and the only thing I could not live without is Praying.

Indeed for me, even if I am not where I wanted to be or I did not have all the things I wanted, I am happy for everything that has happened in my life. This is because I think that it is God's plan and I really trust his process and his timing. Sometimes you should know that God did not give us everything that we ask for but something better for us and for our lives.

Also, when I do not feel well, when I am stressed, or when I need to make important decisions, I like to pray and entrust everything into His hands and this makes me feel better and really get an open mind to make decisions.

By Tano Addoh





THE MOST IMPORTANT HOLIDAY IN RUSSIA AND TIME TO MAKE A WISH

In Russia there are many traditions associated with New Year's holidays. For example, in Russia people say: "As you celebrate the New Year, you will spend it!". As a result, New Year is the main holiday of the year in Russia.

A large—scale celebration of the New Year is a Russian (or rather Soviet) tradition. In other countries it is customary to celebrate Christmas on a grand scale. Before it was the same in our country. Christmas is a religious Christian holiday, but after the Russian Revolution in 1917 it was unacceptable for the Bolsheviks. At first, the Soviet authorities tried to cancel it altogether, but then they decided to leave the attributes beloved by the people: a Christmas tree, gifts, a festive table, and put another meaning into them — atheistic, unrelated to beliefs and rituals. Thus everyone is doing their best to celebrate this crucial holiday cheerfully and in the warm company of friends and family.

People also say that it is necessary to "leave all debts for the old year" that is to repay debts before the beginning of the coming year. On New Year's Eve you need to wear brand new clothes which at best should be the "happy colors" of next year.

One of the most significant and breathtaking elements of New Year's Eve is making wishes. People believe that the greatest wishes made on New Year's Eve will definitely come true. There is a unique method of making wishes which gives almost one hundred percent guarantee of fulfillment: while the bells are striking twelve you need to write a wish on a piece of paper, burn it on a candle, mix the ashes in a glass of champagne and drink it before the chimes stop beating.

For many Russians this holiday is a family holiday. That is why there is a tradition to spend time at home with family and close friends. On this night, traditionally, toasts sound—the results of the outgoing year and congratulations and wishes of all the best in the coming year. Only after meeting the chimes and properly congratulating all loved ones in person and by phone, the Russians go to the central square or a party for entertainment.

An important element of the celebration of New Year's holidays in Russia is the presence of tangerines on the table, champagne, Olivier salad and sandwiches with red caviar. This is a mandatory attribute of the new year which is on the table of every family.

By Yulia Khayrulina



CHRISTMAS IN FRANCE

Christmas in France is very important for French people, maybe one of the most important holidays. First of all, during the Christmas holiday is the best time to go skiing. In fact, we have so many ski stations in France. Usually, French families are going to the borders of Switzerland and Italy. To continue, we have some French traditions. For dinner we eat some “foie gras”, smoked salmon and oysters for appetizers. After that, we usually eat a “chapon” which is a big chicken. And for dessert we eat the “buche de noel” (a frozen cake), which is the most famous dessert. Furthermore, we have a lot of traditional decorations such as the Christmas tree with its famous Christmas ornaments and garland of lights. In addition to the tree, we also decorate the “creche” or nativity, which is a representation of Jesus’s birth with little figurines Mary, Joseph, Jesus, the three wise kings and so on. In addition to that, we also have Christmas stockings hanging on the chimney light with candies. Christmas is a big celebration in France, and a very beautiful time.

By Paul Gateau



FRIENDSHIP THAT LASTS!

It is important to have friends, because they help us to overcome many problems that occur in our lives. When I talk about friends, I mean the ones that truly care about you and support you in all your decisions. They make you feel special and never give up on you, even when you're not being the nicest person in the world. They know you better and they know that the reason for your bad behavior could be something that bothers you. That's exactly where a true friend makes a difference, by not giving up on you. Instead they worry about you and constantly look out to help you.

Good friends are very rare! Building a strong friendship takes time, patience, and a deep sense of affection and respect. You begin to find qualities in people that surround you. In many small acts, words and even in a smile can go a long way. After having a good and positive experience with that person you begin to trust them, and if that feeling is mutual, you can have a friendship that lasts forever.

By Sheylla Bernardes



HOW DO YOU DEFINE FRIENDSHIP?

Friends are the second family we choose, so for me friends have a really important place. When you become my friend it's like you are part of my family. Today, a good friend is really rare.

Each person is different. All friends bring different qualities and are unique. But the greatest quality that I look for in a friend is loyalty and honesty. What I hate more than anything is hypocrisy.

The most important thing for me is that between friends we must pull each other up, move forward and build projects together. We must also enjoy and create memories to share later. For a friendly relationship to work we owe each other mutual respect. These are the friendships that are true and will have a lasting impact.

By Rehane Guetache



HOW TO SURVIVE IN A DESERTED ISLAND

If I were stranded alone on a desert island, I would want to have three things: water, fire, and a knife.

First and foremost, water is the most important thing for humans. The human body is made up of approximately 60% water. People can live for one month without food if they have water. However, without water, they can live only about three days.

An island has a high temperature during the day, but at night the temperature drops and becomes very low. So I need fire to keep

warm. And with fire, I can cook cacti and other vegetation from the island.

Knives would help me hunt and also protect myself. To survive for a long time, I would need food and the ability to hunt for myself. A knife could protect me from a dangerous animal. It could also be used as a tool for cutting, carving or sharpening other objects.

I don't want to experience a long time on an island by myself, but if that were to happen, I want these 3 things in order to survive.



By Mei Obata