

The Chicago Shimpo

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THE CHICAGO JAPANESE AMERICAN NEWS

シカゴ新報

今週の HEADLINE

- 積み荷を捨ててギリシア人を救助 スミュルナの惨事で
- 長年の努力が水の泡に 中国在留邦人の落胆
- シカゴ・シンフォニー まさかのスト
- アーリントンハイツ マルダー市長が引退表明

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Tokyo Foreign Currency Exchange

Wed, September 26, 2012

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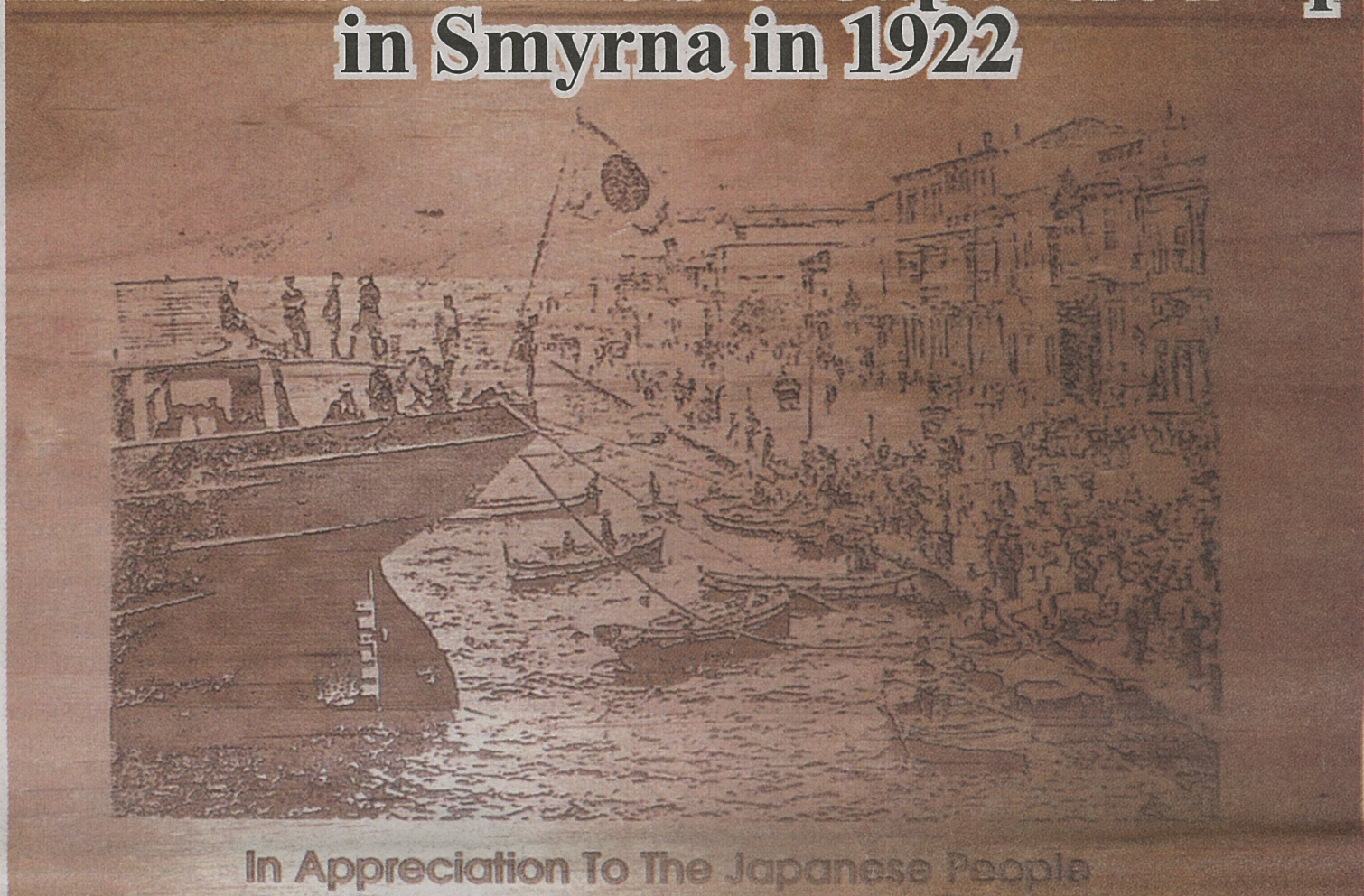
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Greek Community Praises Humanitarian Acts of Japanese Ship in Smyrna in 1922



In Appreciation To The Japanese People

The design of the plaque, which is presented by Greek community, shows a Japanese commercial vessel picking up Greeks before the Kemalists' entry into Smyrna, Friday, September 8, 1922.

Smyrna 90-Year Commemorative Event was held on September 15 at Duke Realty Corp. Auditorium in Rosemont. The commemoration was to honor the thousands of victims, who lost their lives during the September 1922 fire, and to learn how to prevent similar events from happening by

remembering the historical tragic incident. The event was presented by the Asia Minor and Pontos Hellenic Research Center and the Pontian Greek Society of Chicago.

One of the topics in the event was expressing gratitude for humanitarian actions taken by a Japanese

captain and his sailors amid the tragedy of Smyrna. The crew of an anonymous Japanese commercial ship threw its cargo overboard without any hesitation and took the victims on board. The Greek community presented Consul Kotaro Matsuzawa a plaque, which read, "In appreciation to the

Japanese People."

Located in the west side of Aegean Sea, Smyrna prospered as an international commercial city, which had multiethnic population of 500,000. At the time of 1922, Smyrna was under the reign of Greece,

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Smyrna

'Ama' Women Divers in Tohoku Keep Hunting for Quake Recovery



Traditional Japanese "ama" divers Yaeko Nakagawa (R) and Hiroko Omukai pose in the coastal city of Kuji, Iwate Prefecture.

Traditional Japanese "ama" divers Yaeko Nakagawa and Hiroko Omukai, who harvest sea urchins without modern dive equipment, were back at work only four months after the devastating March 2011 earthquake and tsunami hit the coastal city of Kuji, Iwate Prefecture.

The two said they thought they must hang in to make the coast flourish as before and preserve the (ama) tradition that has been kept for about 100 years.

"I find this job rewarding and satisfactory when I bring sea urchins to the surface and the audience breaks into a cheer," Nakagawa, 55, said.

"This job is tough and challenging, but I want people see us as we are hanging in instead of escape,"

Omukai, 52, said.

The Kosode coast of Kuji is a popular tourist spot known as the northernmost place in Japan where tourists can see traditional ama divers catching urchins from July to September. Ama, all women, dive without scuba gear or air tanks to collect urchins, shellfish and other marine products.

On March 11, 2011, the tsunami struck a vast area of northeastern Japan, sweeping away almost all fishing boats and fishing nets on the beach where the two women work, but their swimsuits and tools somehow survived.

Nakagawa and Omukai said they were scared to go into water for the first time since

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Ama

Smyrna from page 1

but Greece and Ottoman Turks had been long fighting over the city.

While the infighting of the Greek government undermined its power, the Turks were revitalized by the leadership of Kemal Ataturk, founder of modern Turkey, and defeated Greece on August 26, 1922. Victorious Turks entered Smyrna on September 8, 1922, and the troops began to murder, rape and deport Anatolian Christians.

On September 13, Turks set fire to the Christian residential areas, and the fire lasted for three days. More than a half of Smyrna's population was Greek at that time.

At the commemorative event, Dr. Constantine G.



Dr. Constantine G. Hatzidimitriou

Hatzidimitriou, author of the book "American Accounts Documenting the Destruction of Smyrna", spoke about the process that led to the massacre of Anatolian Greeks, the Turks' responsibility for the tragedy, and the humanitarian acts by Japanese. He said that his mother narrowly escaped from Smyrna when she was two.

According to Hatzidimitriou, about 5 million Anatolian Christians including 2 million Greeks were expelled from Asia Minor between 1914 and 1922. About 200,000 Greek men were deported and sent to concentration camps as slave laborers. Under the harsh circumstances, most of them died from starvation or execution. The deportation meant a death march. By the year of 1921, Hatzidimitriou assumed that more than 700,000 Greeks were killed by Turks.

The tragedy of Smyrna happened in front of the world's eyes. There were 27 European ships including three American destroyers at the harbor, and the great fire became headlines in the world's newspapers. Hatzidimitriou said that Turks, however, have denied the systematic

massacres until today.

Tragedy of Smyrna

When Greek troops left and Turks entered Smyrna on September 8, 1922, about 300,000 Christians were told that the city was safe and under control, but murders and rapes started on the day the Turkish troops arrived.

The ships from 21 countries had been ordered by their governments not to intervene in the happenings in Smyrna and only boarded the victims with passport like documents. Consul General of the U.S. George Horton asked the U.S. government if he could take actions for a rescue attempt, but the U.S. government said, "No."

On September 13, Turks set fires in the Armenian quarter, and the flames spread to the Greek quarter. The Christians tried to escape from the fire, but Turks set machine guns at the exits of the city and closed the roads. About 200,000 Christians crowded into the waterfront.

Japanese Ship

A Japanese commercial ship had just entered the harbor on September 13. The crew threw its cargo into the water and took aboard 700 victims and safely landed them at the harbor in Piraeus, Greece. The humanitarian actions of the Japanese happened on the first day of the fire while other ships were still watching the tragedy.

Hatzidimitriou described the scene by quoting some eyewitnesses' words.

Consul General Horton said, "An anonymous heroic



Members of Japanese and Greek community at the commemorative event

Japanese captain saved lives of innocent victims, unlike all the other ships in the harbor, who simply watched the horror."

American Anna Birge of International College of Smyrna spoke about the incident in a newspaper interview and said, "The men and women were swimming around the harbor in hope of rescue before they were drowned. In the harbor at that time was a Japanese freighter, which had just arrived, loaded with very valuable cargo of silks, laces, and china representing many thousands of dollars. The Japanese captain, who realized the situation, never hesitated. The whole cargo on board was thrown into the harbor, and the freighter took aboard 700 refugees, who were taken to Piraeus and landed in the safety of Greece."

Hatzidimitriou's friend, president of Asia Minor Memorial Society in New

York, said in his letter, "My friend's mother, who was nine years old, and her family was rescued by a Japanese ship. She recounted that she had seen dead bodies being laid in the bow which were thrown into the sea before she reached Piraeus." Hatzidimitriou explained that her witness showed that some of the refugees were very exhausted and in very bad shape.

Hatzidimitriou's other friend said in his e-mail, "My mother Sofia and her brother George were saved by a Japanese ship. She was 11 and, George was two years younger. They lived outside of Smyrna and were abandoned by guardians. They walked several days to get Smyrna. They were hiding themselves most of the time and just started moving forward. My

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Smyrna



The great fire of Smyrna in 1922

Ama from page 1

the tsunami, as they knew that much has been changed in the ocean. Since breakwaters were all gone, high waves washed them away and they struck rocks many times, they said.

But one and a half years after the Great East Japan Earthquake, the amount of sea weeds on the floor has been recovering and sea

urchins that eat them has got back fresh and are shining in orange, they said.

Nakagawa has 30 years of experience as a sea urchin diver, while Omukai has just 10 years. Despite the gap in experience, they call each other by first name and get along like sisters.

The two have been greatly encouraged by the recent formation of an ama club by seven local high school girls.

Nakagawa and Omukai,

both natives of Kuji, said that they feel happy when diving together with members of the club, who may take over the tradition in the future.

They are also looking forward to a TV program "Ama chan," scheduled to be aired on public broadcaster NHK starting next spring, which is based on women divers in Kuji and centers on a girl who wants to be a diver. (Sept. 21 Kyodo)

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Obituary

George Hidaka

George "Porky" Hidaka, 83 years, died Sept. 16th. Beloved husband of the late Kumiye. Loving father of Bill (Terri), Victor, James (Anna), Jo Ann (Alan Stankevitz) and Jon Hidaka. Dear brother of Richard (Jane), Shizuko, and the late Bill (Flora) Hidaka and Reiko (Wally) Scott. Cute little grandpa of 8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers memorial to the Japanese American Service Committee, 4427 N Clark St. Chicago, IL. 60640 or the charity of your choice appreciated. Memorial visitation Sept. 29th Saturday from 9 am until service following at 10:30 am at Lakeview Funeral Home 1458 W Belmont Ave. Chicago, IL. 60657. 773-472-6300 or www.lakeviewfuneralhome.com



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Smyrna
from page 2

mother never gave me many details other than saying how Europeans had abandoned them. They were taken to a small boat and then to a Japanese boat. She thought that Japanese looked like 'Gen' some good kind of people. They fed them rice and took them to Athens."

Hatzidimitriou added that even in the WWII, his friend's mother never forgot that Japanese saved Greeks and always found occasions to remember and was pleased with Japan and Japanese, who saved them.

When Hatzidimitriou introduced each witness, applause rippled through the auditorium.

The fire continued to September 15. During the fire, American and British ships took aboard a small number of victims.

On September 16, the fire was almost extinguished, and 200,000 refugees were begging ships for help. Hatzidimitriou said, "At that point, the Turks realized that they couldn't kill Christians fast enough to make this minority people disappear." Kemal Ataturk ordered Christians to leave Smyrna by the end of September.

Captain Arthur Hepburn, chief of Staff of the American naval squadron asked for Turkish permission to allow Greek ships to come to pick up refugees, but the Turks didn't say "yes" until September 23rd. The first Greek ship arrived at the harbor the following day, and eight Greek ships transported about 140,000 refugees

Japanese Scientists Win Spoof Ig Nobel Award for "Speech Jammer"

Two Japanese researchers won the spoof Ig Nobel acoustic prize on Thursday for developing the SpeechJammer, a device that confuses and stifles a person speaking by sending the speaker a delayed recording of their own voice.

"One scenario is that you can use this in a meeting room where chairs have buttons to stop excessive speaking," Kazutaka Kurihara, researcher at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, told Kyodo News ahead of the Harvard ceremony, adding that the device could make such meetings more "fair."

The 22nd annual event to award the prizes, which the science humor magazine Annals of Improbable Research gives in 10 categories as a parody of the Nobel Prizes, was held at Harvard University's Sanders Theatre. It was the sixth straight year for an Ig Nobel prize to go to Japanese recipients.

Kurihara and his partner

Koji Tsukada, researcher at the Japan Science and Technology Agency, were honored for creating the machine and for addressing the important issue of "overly talkative people," according to a source familiar with the Ig Nobel selection process.

Accepting the prize, Kurihara and Tsukada told the enthusiastic crowd of about 1,200 about why they created the gadget and when the speech went beyond the allotted one-minute mark, Tsukada used the SpeechJammer on his partner.

The idea of the SpeechJammer came about in 2010 and the team worked together to design a portable "speech jamming" gun, which they first considered calling the "silencer," but then thought that "jammer" was a more accurate description of how it works.

According to Kurihara and Tsukada, the system is based on the concept of delayed audio feedback, a psychological phenomenon where the brain is affected or "jammed" by hearing its own "feedback" or voice, artificially delayed. The device makes the speaker

hear their own voice a few hundred milliseconds later.

After their research was published, the team received many other ideas on how to use the machine such as modifying it to use on barking dogs or on the loud political vehicles roaming the streets during election seasons in Japan.

Although aware that the technology involves a fine balance between equality of expression and free speech concerns, Kurihara hopes that people will use the device not to suppress others, but to let everyone have their turn to speak.

"You can see in TV programs famous politicians or leaders discussing...it's a part of their job to be the priority in the discussion and it's like a performance," Kurihara said. "I would just like this kind of discussion to be fair."

Before the prizes were awarded, five Japanese musicians including Yuji Okuyama and Reiko Nakanishi made their American debut in a 15-minute concert playing a "keromin," a frog puppet-shaped musical instrument

they created. The name keromin combines the Japanese onomatopoeia word "kero" for the sound a frog makes, and "theremin," an electronic instrument.

Among other winners was Swedish engineer Johan Pettersson, who received the chemistry prize for figuring out why people's hair turned green in certain houses in a town in southern Sweden. Pettersson explained to Kyodo that he ultimately found the "culprit" -- copper piping in newer housing units.

The peace prize was given to the SKN Company of Russia for their use of technology to convert old ammunition into new diamonds called "nano-diamonds," measuring as small as four nanometers, which can be used in coating objects to strengthen them. SKN director Igor Petrov told Kyodo that "to take something destructive from war and make it into a useful product" is one of his company's goals.

Last year, a group of Japanese researchers won the chemistry prize for developing a smoke detecting alarm that sprays a wasabi scent to alert people with hearing disabilities to an emergency. (Photo available P13. by Kyodo)

including Hatzidimitriou's mother to Greece.

Hatzidimitriou said that about 190,000 Christians were saved, and 100,000 of them were killed or deported. About 3 million Greeks were affected by the Turks' systematic massacre and deportation of Greeks in Asia Minor since 1914.

After the tragedy of Smyrna, it became a domain of Turkey by the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923. As

a consequence, all Greeks disappeared from Smyrna where they had lived for thousands of years.

Editor's note: The event was presented by the Greek community; thus, the history was viewed by Greek side. As it is widely known, massacres occurred in the both side during Greco-Turkish War. Further study of the history is in your hands.

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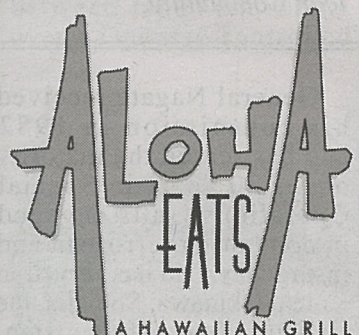
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ChicagoLand News

長年の努力が水の泡に
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スミュルナの惨事から90年
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オバマ政権政策
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積み荷を捨ててギリシア人を救助 日本の商船に感謝 スミュルナの惨事90周年で



1922年9月、2マイルにわたって燃えるスミュルナの街 (背景の写真はギリシアのイメージのみで、スミュルナの大火とは無関係)

スミュルナの惨事から90年を記念する式典が9月15日、ローズモントにある Duke Realty Corp. Auditorium で開催された。主催したのは、小アジアとポントス・ヘレニク研究センター&シカゴ・ギリシア協会で、開催主旨を「ただ犠牲者を追悼するだけでなく、歴史的な惨事を忘れず同様の惨事の再発を防ぐことを学ぶための集まりだ」と述べている。

式典の1つのポイントは、炎に迫られるギリシア人を躊躇することなく救出した日本商船の人道的な行いに敬意を表するもので、松澤幸太郎在シカゴ領事に感謝の言葉を刻んだ盾が贈られた。

エーゲ海の西側にあるスミュルナは国際商業都市として繁栄していた。1922年当時、スミュルナには多民族から成る約50万人が住んでいたが、

ギリシアとオスマン帝国が長くその主権を争っていた。

国内分裂でギリシアが弱体化する一方、オスマン軍は近代トルコの祖となったムスタファ・ケマル・アタチュルクのリーダーシップにより勢力を増し、1922年8月26日にトルコ領に布陣していたギリシア軍を破った。これにより、当時ギリシア統治下にあったスミュルナからギリシア保安隊が引き上げ、9月8日にケマル率いるト

ルコ軍がスミュルナに入った。その後はキリスト教住民のギリシア人やアルメニア人に対する虐殺・強姦・追放が始まった。そして9月13日にはアルメニア人住居区に火が付けられ、ギリシア人居住区に広がった。当時、スミュルナには人口の半分以上を占める約25万人のギリシア人が住んでいたとされる。

(19面へつづく)

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