A Teacher Fellow in Japan

Visiting Places

Sugihara Chiune Memorial Hall
One of her interests was on Mr. Chiune Sugihara, a Japanese diplomat during WW II. He saved thousands of Jewish lives from Nazi oppression to issue passports for them in Lithuania. Judyth enjoyed to talk with Mrs. Sugihara and her son, then visited his memorial hall in Yaotsu village.

at Tokyo Metropolitan Central Library
By Judyth Lessee

I was the Horner Fellow in 2002 and visited Japan in the fall. My travels took me to Tokyo, Yokohama, Osaka, Kobe, Nara, Gifu, Hiroshima, Fukuyama. I learned about the culture, geography, history, librarianship and even more, that people in Japan are dedicated to peace and learning.

I was guided but not smothered. My hosts were very congenial and creative in showing me the sites and yet they also let me roam independently where possible. The food was plentiful. The subway and bullet train were efficient and I felt like I was not a stranger even though my Japanese is limited to a handful of words. Somehow, I managed to communicate.

I was envious of some of the school libraries. As in the U.S. you get what you pay for. At one exclusive private high school, teachers also have to volunteer in the library. Oh if only that were true in Arizona. It is ironic that as we get sucked into the vortex of standards and testing, the Japanese are beginning to realize that critical thinking skills trump rote learning.

Autumn was incredibly beautiful. I can't begin to describe the colors of brilliant red, orange, yellow. It was also cooler and in fact, just perfect for my personal thermostat.

I had the opportunity to stay in different hotels, including one just for academics. Of course the best accommodations were the home stays. As varied as the people and all friendly, generous and

I am still in contact with some of my Japanese friends and in fact, hosted Mrs. Yamabe two Christmases ago. Horner fellows usually stay with her in Osaka.

I urge you to consider applying for the Horner Fellowship. Japan is not only a country; it is an experience and one that stays with you forever.