

## Unforgettable week

By: *Kikue Kato*

(May27-June3 '17)

In much anticipation, we were waiting for our guests to arrive from USA. Finally, Sukh, Leslie and Will came to Japan on May 27<sup>th</sup> 2017.



Mr. Kato and I were so happy to have them as our house guest 福. It is absolutely an honor. Sukh has always been such a good friend to us. This is just some of the many things we did together. We had so much fun, there were too many experiences to share in one article.

We held a tea ceremony to welcome them. Mrs. Ishida (Sensei Ishida) was very kind to prepare kimono for them. Leslie was so pretty in her kimono! Sukh and Will also in kimono, they looked very handsome! I think they should wear kimono all the time instead of T-shirts and pants! Sukh looked like Saigo Takamori. If there were a dog with neck leader, it would have been perfect!



Saigo Takamori(西郷隆盛)



I thought Will looked like Charlie Sheen and said so. He said maybe he does, but Will pointed out he didn't act like Charlie. I would hope not.

Will then mentioned that Harry Connick Jr. was related to him, like his fourth cousin. Wow! I like him Harry Connick Jr., especially as a judge of American Idol.



On May 29th, we had a main event. It was Senshuraku of May sumo basho.

Yokozuna Hakuho VS Yokozuna Harumafuji was the last match. The match lasted 1 minute 29 seconds, and Hakuho won! I think it is one of the best matches in sumo history. The fact we could watch it with our own eyes, and watch history was amazing. We were so lucky.



On the 30th, we went to Nikko Toshogu(日光東照宮). It is well known as the tomb of Tokugawa Ieyasu(徳川家康). The engravings, the temples, the environment are very gorgeous.

Japanese people often say, "Don't say kekko(結構) until you've seen Nikko"., in other word "Don't say wonderful until you've seen Nikko".



Next, we visited Nikko Edo village(日光江戸村). It is Edo era theme park.

Oiran parade(花魁道中) was so beautiful. Edo culture is so fabulous. Sukh and Will were able to duel some samurai. Will was so happy he beat his challenger.



At the night, we stayed Harvest Hotel Kinugawa. Onsen and dinner buffet were great! The hot springs refuel your spirit and body.

At dinner, Mr. Kato, Sukh and Will were especially happy. Nomihodai ( can drink as much as you like) was on the menu, it is wonderful for drinkers. It costs only ¥1550 each. Sukh said, “ It is unbelievable, In America? No way!”, all you can drink for 2 hours for \$14 US! Mr. Kato drank beer, shochu, sake, whisky and wine and so on! He got his money’s worth!



Then on May 31<sup>st</sup>, Sukh and Will trained with Ootake Sensei’s Katori Shintoryu dojo in Narita for second time. It was amazing to see them in this old dojo. They learned so quick. Ootake Sensei had many compliments for Sukh and Will. He said that they learned so quick and that even Japanese student’s couldn’t do that. I was proud of them as their friend.

The next day on June 1st, we went to Asakusa.



As they bought a lot of souvenirs, we decided to check in to our hotel early. We caught a taxi and informed driver of the hotel name, Comfort Hotel Tokyo Higashi Kanda. But the driver took us to the wrong hotels, twice! Comfort Hotel Kanda at first, then Comfort Hotel Higashi Nihonbashi. I tried to correct him and said, “ No, no, Please go to Comfort Hotel Tokyo Higashi Kanda”. The driver was confused so he went in to the hoitel we were at to find directions. The driver just left us in his taxi car, running, with the keys in it, and went to the hotel’s front desk to ask the right place of our hotel.

At that time, Sukh said to Leslie, “ Can you imagine a taxi driver ever leaving his taxi running with the key inside in any other country?”

And Leslie said that she felt so safe all the time in Japan. It was so happy to hear that. We used to say that safety and water are free in Japan. But sad to say, it is a

little bit changing nowadays. Overconfidence is the worst enemy!



I am back to my usual life now. I enjoyed editing the video I shot. It was just a week but I feel like it was a month of memories. It is absolutely my most unforgettable week.

I think GiYu Dojo is holding a seminar this weekend. I sure it will be a success. I hope Will could pass his Shodan test. Ganbatte!

Sukh, Leslie and Will,

This is not enough to describe how much I enjoyed accompanying with you. I would like to say thank you for giving us such a good time!

Thank you very much!

Your friend,  
Kikue Kato