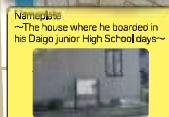


Chiune Sugihara's "Walk of Humanitarianism (Jindo no michi)" Route Map



Nameplate
~The house where he boarded in
his Daigo Junior High School days~



八熊通6
Yaguma-dori 6
八熊通5
Yaguma-dori 5

As a child, Sugihara lived in Nagoya for about ten years. Praising his great achievements, the city of Nagoya has named the route that links the place where he lived with his old school, Aichi Prefectural Daigo Junior High School (present-day Aichi Prefectural Zuiryo High School), as "Chiune Sugihara's Walk of Humanitarianism (Jindo no michi)."

- Route
- Nameplate
- Guideboard

東海道新幹線
Tokaido Shinkansen



Chiune in
junior high school
(from the graduation
album)

About Chiune Sugihara

Before he became a diplomat [1900-1923]

In 1900, Sugihara was born in Gifu Prefecture. When he was at a lower grade of elementary school, he transferred to Nagoya Municipal Furuwatari Elementary School (present-day Nagoya Municipal Heiwa Elementary School), due to the work of his father Yoshimi.

In 1912, Chiune graduated from elementary school and entered Aichi Prefectural Daigo Junior High School (present-day Aichi Prefectural Zuiryo High School), graduating in 1917.

Later, Sugihara entered Waseda University. In 1919, he passed the exam for an overseas study program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, as a foreign student of Russian, he went to Harbin in northeastern China, where many Russian people lived.

His diplomat days 1: Before issuance of visas [1924-1939]

In 1924, Sugihara was appointed as a clerk for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and began working at the Japanese Consulate General in Harbin in 1925. After transferring to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Manchukuo, he returned to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 1937, he was posted to the Japanese Legation in Finland. In 1939, he took up his position as acting Japanese consul in Kaunas, Lithuania.

In Europe at that time, the Nazis were expanding in power and persecution of Jewish people was escalating. Jewish refugees trying to flee the country aimed to leave through Lithuania, where many had temporarily taken shelter, to a safe place beyond the Nazis' menace.



Sugihara at the Ministry of Foreign
Affairs of Manchukuo

His diplomat days 2: Issuance of visas [1940]

In the early morning of July 18, 1940, a large number of Jewish refugees, who had fled Poland to Lithuania, rushed to the Japanese Consulate for visas to transit through Japan. With the Soviet Union trying to annex Lithuania, the refugees felt a pressing need to escape the country. Amid an extremely tense situation, Sugihara contacted the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which replied, "Do not issue any visas to those who do not meet the conditions for one." Against the order, however, he began issuing visas to the Jewish refugees.

Later in life, Sugihara had this to say, "After much pain and agony, I eventually reached an answer to my question: benevolence and humanity come first. And to this day I am positive that I faithfully completed what needed to be done at the risk of my job, with nothing to fear."



Jewish refugees requesting visas in
front of the Japanese Consulate



200m