

Subsequent stories of Jewish refugees who obtained visas

What became of the Jewish refugees who obtained transit visas from Sugihara? Most of them left Kaunas and took the Trans-Siberian Railway to Vladivostok, where they boarded a ship and arrived at Tsuruga Port in Japan. Then, via Kobe and Yokohama, they reached third nations such as the U.S. and Canada.



Jewish refugees landing on Japanese soil at Tsuruga Port

Tsuruga has heart-warming stories about the people who gave a hearty welcome to the Jewish refugees who struggled to get on shore, carrying the visas issued by Sugihara. For example, one boy brought them baskets of fruit for nothing. A public bath near the port opened the bath to the refugees with no charge.



Tsuruga Port at the time the Jewish refugees arrived (Source: Furusato Tsuruga no kaiso[Reminiscences of our hometown Tsuruga])

Medal given by the Israeli government

In 1985, Sugihara, then 85, received the honor of "Righteous Among the Nations" (the Yad Vashem Award). This is the most honorable title and award given by the Israeli government with gratitude to non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jewish people. The commemorative medal given to Sugihara bears the inscription: "Whosoever saves a single life, saves an entire universe."

Forty-five years had passed since he had issued the visas, and admiration for Sugihara's achievements never diminished.



Medal of "Righteous Among the Nations"

"Courage," Chiune, aged 16

To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the issuance of "Visas for Life" in 2020, the City of Nagoya solicited donations and has produced the statue of Chiune Sugihara in his youth in order to pass on Chiune's great achievements and his relationship with Nagoya to future generations.

The statue of Chiune wears a student cap bearing the emblem of Aichi Prefectural Daigo Junior High School (present-day Aichi Prefectural Zuiryo High School) and holds an English textbook in the left hand. It represents

"courage," which gave him the push when he had to make an important decision in Kaunas, Lithuania as a diplomat.



"Courage," Chiune, aged 16
Created by: Shinsuke Yamamoto
Calligraphy: Nagoya Mayor Takashi Kawamura

Facilities Related to Chiune Sugihara



The Chiune Sugihara Memorial Hall



107-1 Yaotsu, Yaotsu-cho, Kama-gun,
Gifu Prefecture
Phone: +81 574-43-2460

By bus Board YAO Bus from Meitetsu Akechi Station, and get off at Yaotsu Family Center Board Tohatsu Bus from JR Wino Ota Station, and get off at Yaotsu Family Center From Yaotsu Family Center
(Weekdays) Transfer to the regular-time bus Yaomaru and get off at Jindo-no-Oka Kita (Humanity Hill North)
(Sat, Sun, and holidays) Transfer to a free shuttle taxi

By car Approx. 25 mins from the Kan-Mitake Interchange on the Tokai-Kanjo Expressway

- Opening hours : 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
(last admission 4:30 p.m.)
- Closed days :
Mondays, year-end and New Year holidays
(the next weekday if it is a national holiday or substitute holiday)
- Admission fee :
Adults (high school age and older): 300 yen
Junior high school age or younger: Free
Special group rates are available.
Group discount available



Port of Humanity Tsuruga Museum



23-1 Kanegasaki-cho, Tsuruga City,
Fukui Prefecture
Phone: +81 770-37-1035

By bus Board Tsuruga Tour Bus (sightseeing route) from JR Tsuruga Station, and get off at Kanegasaki Ryokuchi Board the community bus Matsubara Line from JR Tsuruga Station, and get off at Kanegasaki Ryokuchi.

By car Approx. 10 mins from Tsuruga Interchange on the Hokuriku Expressway

- Opening hours : 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
(last admission 4:30 p.m.)
- Closed days :
Wednesdays (the next day if it is a national holiday), year-end and New Year holidays
- Admission fee :
Adults: 500 yen Elementary school age or younger: 300 yen (children under 4 years old Free)
Group discount available



Chiune Sugihara Square

AICHI PREFECTURE "SEMPO" SUGIHARA MEMORIAL



This facility is open to the public so that anyone can visit it freely. However, since it is located on school grounds, please be careful not to disturb classes.

2-1 Kishihara-cho, Mizuho-ku, Nagoya-shi
(On the west side of the main gate of Aichi Prefectural Zuiryo High School
(052-254-6627)
(Educational Planning Division, Aichi Prefectural Board of Education)

By bus Approx. 450 m to the west of the Mizuho Kuyakusho bus stop of Nagoya City Bus
Approx. 650 m to the north of the Toyooka-ori bus stop of Nagoya City Bus

By subway Approx. 400 m to the west of Exit 4 of Mizuho Kuyakusho Station on Sakura-ori Subway Line
Please visit the facility by public transport. (There is no parking lot or rest room.)

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



Chiune Sugihara (1900-1986)

Chiune Sugihara, known for his "Visas for Life," was a Japanese diplomat. In World War II, he saved a large number of Jewish people by issuing more than 2,000 visas to Jewish refugees who were trying to escape persecution.

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)."