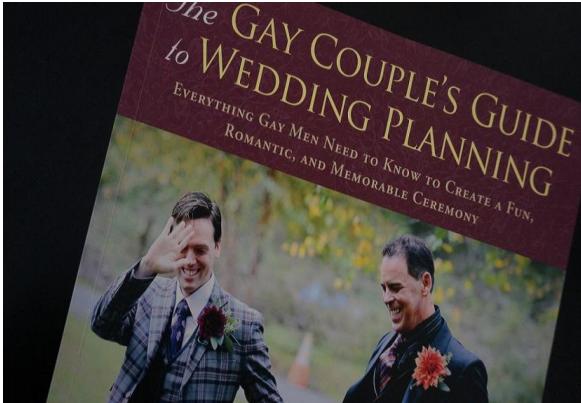


## THE GAY COUPLE'S WEDDING



June 26, 2013, the United States Supreme Court finally made a decision of legal marriage of gay couples in California. In this state especially, since 2008, deliberation had been changed two or three times, and very controversial, so it became big news on TV in New York. By the way, the same sex marriage was legalized on June 24<sup>th</sup> in 2011 in the state of New York.

One of the reasons why gay peoples feel legalization of the same sex marriage is so important because they can have the same privilege as the different sex marriage, for instance, inheritance, taxation, etc.

Sometimes, people tend to feel that “well, if they love each other, and they know that there is a true love, which is the most important thing and everything is OK.” However, it is also very important that they have to have their legal rights as married couple to live in this society with government protection and financial privilege.

President Obama mentioned in his inauguration speech that the all people have to have the same equal rights. I think that it is really sensational that President Obama clearly mentioned about any kinds of people's rights in his inauguration speech like” GAY or STRAIGHT, ABLE or UNABLE, BLACK or WHITE...”, and I felt that the United States always leads the world as one of the top countries which encourages how people are able to have equal human rights.

2013年6月26日、アメリカ連邦最高裁判所において、ついにカリフォルニア州でもゲイの結婚が正式に認められることとなりました。この州では特に、2008年から審議が二転三転、物議を醸していたため、NYのTVではBIGニュースとなったわけです。ちなみにニューヨーク州は2011年6月24日に法案可決、7月24日から実施されました。

このように法的に認められることを重要視する理由は、相続・税金などが通常の婚姻と同じとみなされるということが大きいことからなのです。本人同士が愛し合っていて、結婚している気持ちがあればそれでよいのでは？と思う方もいるでしょうが、法律できちんと認められるということは、夫婦として社会的にも堂々と安心して生活する権利を得ることになるのです。

オバマ大統領の就任演説の中に、人々は皆平等な扱いを受ける権利があるとあります。

「GAY or STRAIGHT, ABLE or UNABLE, BLACK or WHITE, ...」

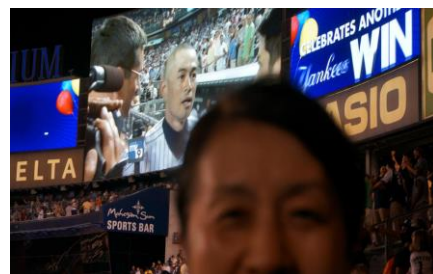
このようにはっきり表現していることも画期的なこと、人として生きる権利をアメリカは常にリードしている...そんな風を感じました。

## NEWYORKER'S PROPOSE at YANKEE STADIUM



I went to Yankee stadium to watch a game with a same-day ticket. Then I had a very interesting experience. While we are watching the game, all of a sudden, the big screen showed the words “Will you marry me?”. As you would imagine, all of the audience got so excited and stood up and congratulated the couple. You could wonder how much money he spent for that event.

Moreover, we were super lucky to have Darvish (Texas), Kuroda (Yankees), and also, Ichiro's game-winning homer!!! A lot of Yankee fans congratulated and appreciated us as Japanese, and they all told us that “Yeah! Japanese, great!” and we were very happy and proud of ourselves as a part of people who share this moment together. We got a lot of Hi-touches from Yankee fans until we come out from the stadium, and they made my palm of the hand a little bit sore, but I truly had a wonderful evening with people of New York.



ヤンキースタジアム当日チケットで観戦した私は、ある出来事に遭遇しました。大きなスクリーンに映し出されたプロポーズの言葉、“Will you marry me?”に、観客は総立ち、大きな拍手でコングラチュレーションモード。男性がこれにかけたお金がいかほどかは、想像にお任せいたします。

しかもこの日は、ダルビッシュ選手(レンジャース)と黒田選手(ヤンキース)の先発投手、イチロー選手のサヨナラホームランという、大ラッキーな日でした。日本人として誇らしく、球場を出るまでずっと「Yeah!日本人すごいね！」とハイタッチを求められながら、手は多少ひりひりしましたが、ニューヨークの人々と素晴らしい夜を過ごしました。

Edited by SHOKO (IFDA NY board member )& J.BARROW (assistant of SHOKO)

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