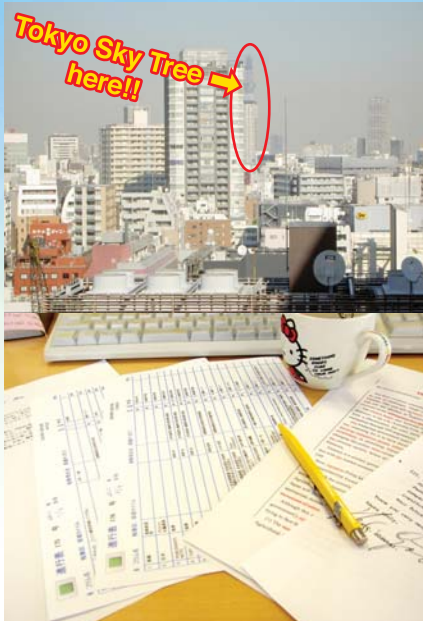


At Beginning of New Year



The *Japan SPOTLIGHT* editorial department I work in is in a building in Tokyo's Higashi-Ginza. When I sit at my desk and turn around to look behind me, I can see on the right the Kabukiza theater, which is undergoing reconstruction after many years of existence, while to the left is Tokyo Sky Tree – Japan's new sightseeing spot under construction – which continues to grow rapidly. There are things that change and those that do not, but at the beginning of every year, one feels refreshed. This New Year, I renewed my resolve to change and better myself, in line with the way the streets of Ginza are constantly evolving.

As advised on a different page of this issue, we will stop publishing the printed version of *Japan SPOTLIGHT* after the

next issue (March/April 2011). Bustling to meet all the different deadlines every day, there have been ups and downs while working in the editorial department, but I do feel sad to think that we will no longer be having the printed medium in the future. There are a variety of reasons for this situation, but we are regarding this as a new first step to advance into the next stage.

We are grateful to our readers, to the writers, and to all the people who have cooperated in planning, editing, printing and distribution, in the bookshops and on the Web, and in many other areas.

Thank you all so very much.

N. Harada

Oriental dance FARASA STUDIO



Belly Dance FARASA STUDIO Opens in Higashi-Nakano, Tokyo

One-minute walk from JR Higashi-Nakano Station.
Classes for beginners available.

Your instructor is ZIZI, a rising star of the Egyptian belly dance world, with 8 years of teaching experience. She will introduce you to the fantasy of Oriental dance. (Please see her profile on the right) Zizi has a passion for bridging Egypt and Japan through belly dance, having become fascinated by Egyptian culture and people after making more than 10 trips to Egypt.

For more details on the school, visit <http://www.farasa.jp/> or email: info.farasa@gmail.com

Profile of ZIZI, Belly Dancer:

- 2000 – Starts to learn belly dance at ALMIS TARMIS STUDIO from Ms. Barbee Mako
- 2005 – Performs dance for House of Egypt at Aichi World Exposition
- 2008 – Wins Nile- Group Festival Competition in Cairo
- Performs at reception at Egyptian Ambassador's residence as well as at seminar on Egyptian culture organized by Egyptian Embassy's Bureau of Tourism
- Performs at Tourism Exposition at Tokyo Big Site, Fuji Rock Festival and seminar on travel plans held by Eurasia Travel Inc.
- Joins Tokyo Takigi-Noh Festival and Camellia Show in Paris, Rome and Tokyo as main performer
- Regular performer at Restaurant Istanbul
- 2010 – Wins RAKSTAR 2010 Competition in Miami, United States