

## The October 2025 Issue

### What is in this issue:

Halloween  
Who:

Prithika's  
Halloween

Sheila's  
Halloween

Meet  
Anna!



## Halloween Who?!

### Prithika's Halloween in NYC

It's Halloween season! Halloween's **origins** are **complicated**, but it is **traditionally** an American holiday. Each **state** in the USA celebrates it **slightly** differently, but there are many things that are the same! Halloween is a very big event every year in New York City. Although less people go trick-or-treating as the years pass, the city still **decorates** to get into a **festive** mood!

My favorite thing to do during Halloween **season** is to walk around and look at all the houses, restaurants, and shops that are decorated for Halloween. There are always lots of lights, pumpkins, **ghosts**, and much more! Not every **household** will decorate, but usually in the smaller **towns**, people will show off their decorating **skills** by putting up interesting decorations each year.

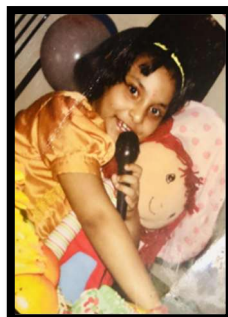


Here are some pictures from 2023 when I went to Seaport, a place by the ocean in Manhattan. There is a different pumpkin **arch** for Halloween each year. Last year, in 2024, it was in the shape of a heart! **Cute! <3**

### Prithika's Childhood Costumes

My family did not really **celebrate** Halloween the same way as everyone else, because Halloween is not very **known** and celebrated in Bangladesh. Instead, we have a special day called *Bhoot Chaturdashi*, which is like Japan's *Obon*! We light fourteen **diya lamps** and leave them outside our house to help the **spirits** of the past fourteen **generations** find their way back home. The picture of the lamps on the ground is at my house back in NYC!

I don't have many pictures from my childhood, but some of the **costumes** I wore are **princess**, **witch**, **angel**, **idol/popstar**, and... **Dora the Explorer**! My parents would always get my hair cut in a **bob** with **bangs** just like her. I hated it as a child, so I told myself when I grow up, I will never have short hair again! Funny, right?



XOXO.  
Prithika



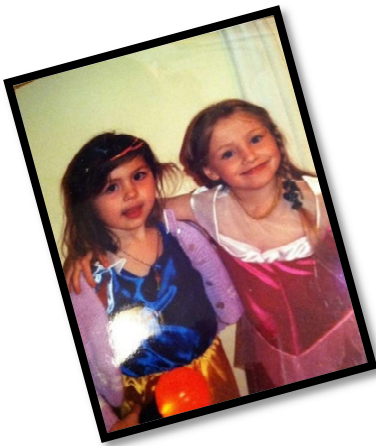
## Halloween Who?!



### Sheila's Celtic & American Halloween

Once upon a time, Halloween was an old, **Celtic** festival in **Ireland** and **Scotland** called *Samhain* (サウイン). People there used **purple** turnips with light-up faces for decoration. But then those people **migrated** to the U.S.A. and made Halloween with **orange** pumpkins instead! Now we have **Jack-o'-Lanterns**!

Now, around the world, Halloween is celebrated American-style because of U.S. **pop culture**! We have wonderful **holiday** movies and music. American **amusement parks** like Universal and Disney do special Halloween events too! I have Celtic **roots**, so most of my family came from Ireland, Scotland, and **England** and then went to the U.S.A. Halloween is Celtic and American, just like me! I think that is so interesting.



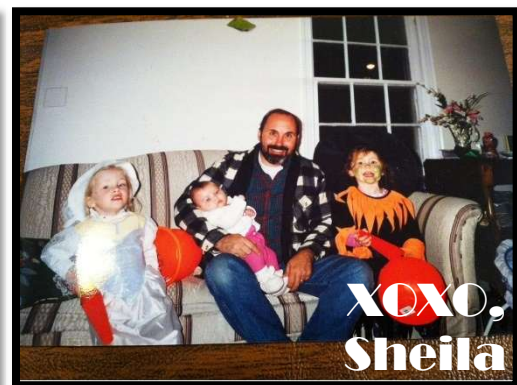
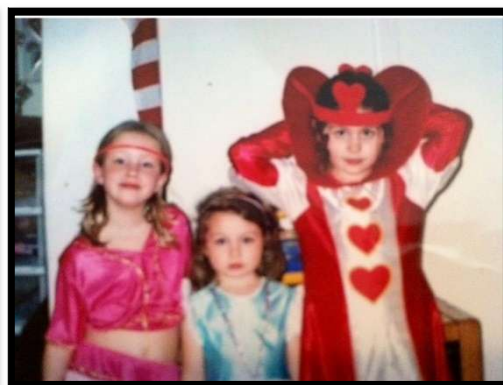
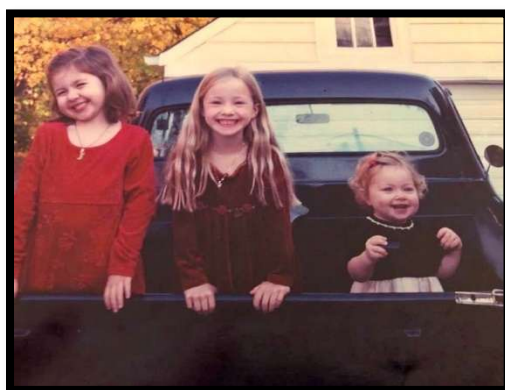
Please check out our Halloween display in the Keika Lounge this October! You can read a lot of this information in Japanese!



### Sheila's Childhood Costumes



I am from Washington D.C. where the weather is **chilly** in **autumn**. Please wear a **jacket** if you go **trick-or-treating** there! The **leaves** on the trees are beautiful red, orange, and yellow colors! My top five **childhood** Halloween costumes were: **Snoopy**, **Princess Aurora**, **Cheerleader Barbie**, a **Cowgirl**, and the **Green M&M**. Here are some pictures of my **younger sisters** and I during Halloween and autumn over the years! My father is also in one picture. Can you **guess** what character I am in the pictures? Which person am I? Halloween who?!





## Halloween Who?!

### Meet Anna!

#### Introduction

Hi!! My name is Anna, and I am your new JET ALT from Canada. I was born in Taiwan and **immigrated** to Canada when I was 6 years old. I like the color **green** and doing oshikatsu!



#### Profile

**Birthday:** April 10

**Zodiac:** Aries

**Chinese Zodiac:** Horse

**Blood Type:** B

**Favorite Anime:** My Hero Academia (Boku no Hero Academia)

**Favorite Song:** mikansei-na sora de

**Favorite Game:** 18TRIP

**Favorite Color:** NCT lime green

**Favorite Sanrio:** Kiki & Lala

**On My Day Off:** I go to Animate and buy merch

**Childhood Dream:** archeologist

**Current Goal:** not be poor and learn Italian



#### Early Life

I was born in Taipei City, **Taiwan**. I went to **preschool** in Taipei where I learned very simple English. However, when I turned 6 years old, my parents decided they wanted my brother and I to have different **opportunities**, so we **moved** to Canada.

It was hard making friends at first because of my poor English skills. However, as time went on, I got better at English, and it became easier to **fit in**.



## School

I liked learning all the **subjects** (except PE), but my favorites were **math** and **music**. It felt fun solving hard math problems and expressing myself using music. I was in many related clubs like math challengers, **choir**, band, **jazz band**, etc. However, although I liked those two subjects, I ended up doing something completely different later.

I studied Japanese language and culture in **university** and in 2023, I spent a year as an **exchange student** at Osaka University. I took many interesting classes there like **calligraphy** and

**Buddhist** art history, but my favorite part was **traveling** around the country. Some places that left a deep **impression** on me were Akiyoshi Cave in Yamaguchi, the Sand Dunes in Tottori, Kanazawa City in Ishikawa, Matsuyama City Ehime, and Shirakawa-go in Gifu.



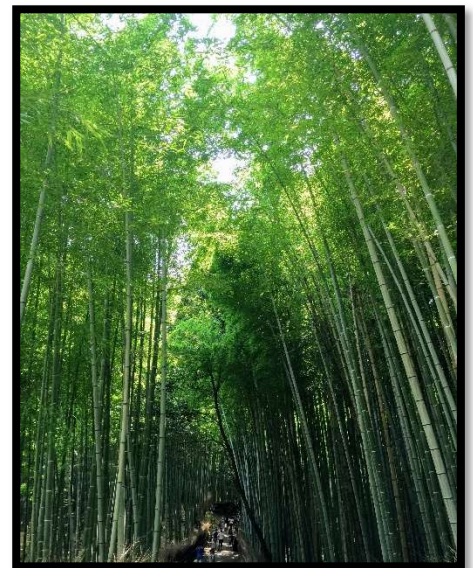
## Fun Fact About My Name

I have 2 names: Anna and 丁筠

I was born with my **Chinese** name, 丁筠 (pronounced "dīng yùn"). My parents gave me this name hoping I would grow

straight and **steady** like a **bamboo** stalk. The character 「筠」 does not **exist** in Japanese, but it means bamboo, or bamboo skin. 「筠」 can also be read as "jùn". In Japanese, you read it as 「イン」 or 「ウン」 or 「タカムナ」.

My English name, Anna, was something I **chose**. My parents and I sat down at a table when I was 6 years old and we picked "Anna" from a list of **potential** names.



XOXO,  
**Anna**