



THE MAUREEN AND MIKE  
MANSFIELD FOUNDATION



(公財)AFS日本協会

Present

# A CHRISTIAN in the LAND of the GODS

## 「わたしの家族の明治日本」

Discussion with the author, Joanna Reed Shelton

Monday, **October 29**, 2018, 2:00 pm, Room 2, International House of Japan

Speaker: **Joanna Reed Shelton** (Author, economist, former international trade negotiator and diplomat)

Language: **English** (without Japanese interpretation)

Seating: **40 (reservation required, RSVP to [tokyoadmin@mansfieldfdn.org](mailto:tokyoadmin@mansfieldfdn.org))**

In November 1877, months after Emperor Meiji's army defeated forces led by Saigō Takamori, Japan's famous "last samurai," the Reverend Tom Alexander and his new wife, Emma, arrived in Japan, where Christianity had been punishable by death until 1868.

Written by Reverend Alexander's great-granddaughter, *A Christian in the Land of the Gods* offers an intimate view of hardships and challenges faced by missionaries working to plant their faith in a country just emerging from two and a half centuries of seclusion.

This true story of personal sacrifice, devotion to duty, and unwavering faith sheds new light on Protestant missionaries' work with Itagaki Taisuke and other democracy activists, and the missionaries' role in helping transform Japan from a nation ruled by shoguns, hereditary lords, and samurai to a leading industrial powerhouse. It addresses universal themes of love, loss, and the enduring power of faith. The narrative also proves that one seemingly ordinary person can change lives more than he or she ever realizes.



Joanna Reed Shelton was intimately involved in U.S.-Japan relations in increasingly senior positions of government and diplomacy for more than twenty years. A quest for knowledge about her great-grandfather's life and work in Japan launched her on a new path. After long holding religion at arm's length, she now serves as an elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She lives with her husband in Montana's Rocky Mountain Northwest.

Due to limited space, seating will be first come, first served

RSVP to [tokyoadmin@mansfieldfdn.org](mailto:tokyoadmin@mansfieldfdn.org)

Location:



The International House of Japan  
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