

*some pictures from Jean & Carl's 2004 visit to*  
**the Golden Pagoda**  
**Kyoto Japan**  
**by Carl Helmers**

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Jean and I married each other November 1, 2003. Jean Bidlack, PhD is a long time professor of Pharmacology at the University of Rochester, where she earned her PhD in Biophysics in 1979. I earned my my 1970 B.S. Physics degree from the University of Rochester. Our paths first crossed while I was participating in some alumni activities in the early 2000s.

Jean travels several times a year to scientific meetings in her neuroscience field, the study of biochemical mechanisms of opiate drug addiction. Shortly after we married it became obvious that we would get along well if I traveled to her meetings. That way I could learn something about Jean's academic field. And together, we could see lots of interesting places. So in July, 2004, I accompanied Jean to the International Narcotics Reseach Conference (INRC) meeting in Kyoto Japan.

While Jean gave papers at and presided over various INRC 2004 sessions, I attended the organization's sessions in order to find out about the field. After all, details of current pharmacology were a field that I knew little about other than what I might have gleaned from skimming some *Science* and *Nature* papers and news articles over the years. As a software engineering writer/editor, then the founding editor of the personal computer magazine, **BYTE** in the 1970s I have long tracked scientific, engineering and technology fields related to computers as they evolved from main frames to personal computing and beyond.

As part of INRC 2004, Jean and I took an optional trip to a Japanese cultural site called *The Golden Pagoda* in the hills above Kyoto. To originally post a version of this article in 2006, I started with my selection of digital images I captured in 2004. I had selected the first crude photo album application I found that looked like it would do for use with my site. This software had very limited caption text entry and editing abilities but could post images. I used its primitive text editor to compose caption texts.

My methods have evolved since. I was able to capture the texts of my original captions circa 2006 as a starting point for this 2016 version of my Kyoto account. Then, I created this new article in my current WordPress style with captions updated as needed. In short, I completely rewrote the article around the pictures and added this introduction. Here is an early 21<sup>st</sup> century account in pictures and caption text updated and edited in March, 2016.



Jean and Carl at the *Golden Pagoda*, Kyoto Japan, July 17, 2004. The *Golden Pagoda* is built on an island in a small pond. Was this some imperial Japanese summer resort in the hills outside the ancient capital?



The Golden Pagoda of Kyoto comes with a Golden Phoenix ornamental sculpture at its peak!



Another view of the Golden Pagoda peak and Phoenix captured from a darker side.



The Golden Pagoda is built on an island in the pond with no bridge or walkway. So it takes a boat to get there, hence this dock on its backside.

Does a boat at the dock in this image mean someone was inside?

Or is the boat at the dock a spare in case a visitor's boat should sink while visiting?

Ah, the mysteries of the ancient Japanese capital, Kyoto 😊



A pagoda-like sculpture on another small island we passed by while walking around the Golden Pagoda grounds...

