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旅の予約センタ・



From left: LaGuardia President Gail O. Mellow, Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer,

one hundredth anniversary of

Japan's gift of cherry trees, will

further strengthen the friendly

relations between Japan and the

United States." Eiko Fukuda, an

adjunct lecturer at LaGuardia,

also gave a brief speech. Ms.

Fukuda is the great granddaughter

of Torajiro Watase, who came to

the United States and contributed

to the cherry tree gift 100 years

started its Japanese language pro-

gram in 2006, making the school

unique among other two-year

New York colleges. The curricu-

lum includes not only Japanese

language classes (beginner to

advanced), but also Japanese liter-

ature courses in English. After

graduation, many students taking

these courses transfer to a four-

year school such as Queens or

Hunter College, in order to con-

tinue their Japanese studies.

LaGuardia Japan Club members

wore Japanese kimono, adding a

(Photo and Article by Ryoichi

Miura; Translated by Kazuya

Machida)

beautiful grace to the ceremony.

LaGuardia Community College

ago with Eiichi Shibusawa.

Planting New Seeds of Friendship

at LaGuardia Community College

On April 24, a cherry tree planting ceremony was held at the City University of New York (CUNY) LaGuardia Community College as part of the nationwide cherry tree planting project promoted by the Consulate General and the Japanese Embassy. The planting ceremony was held in the building E courtyard. In attendance was Gail O. Mellow, LaGuardia's president, Jimmy Van Bramer, New York City councilman, and Shigeyuki Hiroki, ambassador to the United

Japan's gift of 3,020 cherry trees to Washington, DC in 1912 is well known, but trees were also given to New York that same year. A lavish ceremony celebrating the gift was held at what is now Sakura Park, near Grant's Tomb and the Hudson River in the northern part of Manhattan.

In his speech, Mr. Hiroki said, "I hope this cherry tree planting ceremony, which celebrates the

NYクラル日 COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' Viewpoints

WOMAN OF THE WEEK

Fumi Matsuki

Consul General Gives Commendation to Hamilton-Madison House

On April 19, Ambassador Shigeyuki Hiroki awarded the Consul General's Commendation to Hamilton-Madison House at the ambassador's official residence. The Hamilton-Madison House, a nonprofit, was recognized for its exceptional contribution to the social well-being of Japanese expatriates.

Located on Manhattan's Lower East Side, the Hamilton-Madison House is a social welfare organization with 114 years of history. This mental health clinic opened in 1983. It is the first clinic geared towards Japanese people.

Fascinated with Freud's writings in high school, Fumi Matsuki entered Hosei University, where she studied with psychologist Takashi Inui. She afterward came to the United States to study at New York University. Ms. Matsuki was appointed clinic supervisor in her first year in the United States in 1983. She has kept the position for 30 years and continues to practice as a specialist counselor providing mental health care to Japanese expats in Japanese. The clinic remains the



From left Ms. Matsuki, Mr. Handelman and Ambassador Hiroki.

only clinic on the East Coast to | her permission to send Mika provide care specifically for Kirihata, a social worker at the Japanese. In 2004, Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs celebrated 150 years of exchange with the United States. Junko Kawaguchi, the former Minister for Foreign Affairs, gave special commendation to Ms. Matsuki.

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001, many Japanese expats in New York suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder. The Hamilton-Madison House clinic provided care free of charge to patients in need. Now, 100 people use the clinic every year.

After the earthquake in Japan last March, Mark Handelman, executive director of the Hamilton-Madison House, called Ms. Matsuki to his office and gave

clinic, to Japan with Doctors Without Borders. "This is the best support our center can give Japan," he told her. Ms. Kirihara stayed in Japan for a month

Mr. Handelman received the Consul General's Commendation at the Consul's official residence. "Among the Asian communities in New York, the Japanese community is our highest priority," he said. The community also helps support this clinic which in turn provides mental health care. 'Now I have hope in what I'm doing. Thank you very much," said Ms. Matsuki.

(Photograph and Article by Ryoichi Miura; Translated by Tomoko Isshiki)



Shu Kubo Leads Japanese Paper Cutting Workshop

On April 24, Shu Kubo held a paper-cutting workshop at LaGuardia Community College. Mr. Kubo is a kirie (traditional paper cutting) artist. This special workshop was held just after the cherry tree planting

ceremony celebrating the centennial of Japan's cherry tree gift in the same courtyard (see top left article). LaGuardia started its Japanese language program in 2006 and also offers courses in Japanese literature.

of their subtleties, he explained how to make cuts into the cherry | Tohoku Earthquake. blossom-themed templates and (Photo and Article by Ryoichi gave pointers on using the paper | Miura; Translated by Etsuko cutter to each participant. Over 30 | Noda)

Mr. Kubo first showed paper | people participated in the workdesigns of kimono from Japan's shop. Afterward, Mr. Kubo Edo Period. After describing some thanked the school for their significant support following the

NY COOL JAPAN is the English Edition of SHUKAN NY SEIKATSU NEW YORK SEIKATSU PRESS, INC., 18 E 41st St., Suite 1202, New York, NY 10017 Editor in Chief: Ryoichi Miura, Associate Editor: Paul Benson, Editor: Makiko Kinoto Advertise Here! Contact 212-213-6069 info@nyseikatsu.com



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