

VOICES From THE NEW YORKERS

Jokichi Takamine By Dan McDonald

In the hustle and bustle of New York, we have little time to notice the history right under our noses. This great city is full of stories, including those of some notable Japanese people who once called it home.



Well-known chemist Jokichi Takamine was one of them. Born in present day Toyama Prefecture in 1854, the biotech pioneer amassed a fortune after inventing Takadiastase, the world's first indigestion remedy, in the 1890's.

With his great wealth, Takamine lived in a gracious townhouse which still stands at 334 Riverside Drive. Despite his scientific achievements and financial success, however, the chemist from feudal Japan encountered great adversity.

The legacy of this early member of the Japanese community remains for all to see. In 1905 he founded the Nippon Club in his townhouse. Takamine also donated many of the beautiful cherry blossom trees which grace Washington, D.C.'s tidal basin.

(Dan is a newspaper columnist, editor and Japanese translator. Interested readers can contact him at dan9605@hotmail.com.)

THE JAPAN VOICE

COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' Viewpoints



Front row from left to right: Miki, Yamaguchi, Kawamoto, Ito, Tsuda and Suzuki

First Brand, Inc. Sends Four Lecturers to the United States

New York Japanese-American Lions Club Holds a Special Lecture at the Sakura Health Fair

The New York Japanese-American Lions Club, led by President Riki Ito, joined the 11th Sakura Health Fair sponsored by JAA and JAMSNET and supported by the Consulate General of Japan in New York.



Association of New York, Inc. on April 27.

Four people from First Brand, Inc. came to the United States to give lectures. The first lecturer was Satomi Yamaguchi, a judicial scrivener, who gave a talk entitled, "Clean up Objects and Your Mind."

Tsuyoshi Tsuda, a psychological counselor, gave a talk entitled, "How to Make Yourself Shine." He said, "You always have to be positive, even if you feel unhappy. That will give you confidence and bring an opportunity to shine."

After a lunch break, Hiroki Suzuki, an architect, gave a talk entitled, "Comfortable, Healthy and Relaxed Renovation." He talked about the benefits of using Japanese interior pieces, e.g. fusuma, tatami mats and koagari.

The last lecture was held by Junko Miki, a clinical psychologist. She gave a talk entitled, "The World Changes When you Change." Participants listened carefully to the lecture.

First Brand, Inc. are primarily engaged in the internet advertising and digital marketing sectors with a focus on

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company and personal branding. In the internet advertising business, they collaborate with media agencies nationwide, and they have built their own advertisement portal called "My Best Professional." The number of registered professionals on their sites currently exceeds 2,400.

They currently have a presence in all 47 prefectures of Japan. Their headquarters is in Osaka City, led by President Fumiko Kawamoto.

Last year, they hosted an event for registered professionals and locals in New York with huge success. The Sakura Health Fair is their second time hosting. President Kawamoto said, "I want to introduce more professionals who are in Japan to people in New York. It would be a privilege if I can work as a bridge for them."

(Ryoichi Miura/Translated by Chikako Iwasaki)

Japan Day @ Central Park: Heroes Gather on a Rainy Day YOSHIHIRO KAI on Stage



Yoshihiro Kai

(Photo Courtesy of Shintaro Ueyama)

They sang "Day Tripper," "A Hard Day's Night" and "Lady Madonna" by The Beatles and "Imagine" by John Lennon and got a round of applause from the audience. At lunch time, the traditional Japanese dance Bon Odori was performed by The Japanese Folk Dance Institute of New York.



Ambassador Yamanouchi on the guitar and President Takemura on the drums (Photo by Ryoichi Miura)

"Thank you for coming to the park and for listening to my music on this rainy day!" said Yoshihiro Kai. Despite the all-day heavy rain, Japan Day @ Central Park was held on May 12. "I will sing a song dedicated to Japanese people who admire New York City."

Her Two Projects: Wearable Devices Simulating Stuttering and Software to Reduce Stutter-Induced Social Anxiety Disorder

Yuka Fukuoka developed stuttering at the age of eight as a second grader in elementary school. Spending her early childhood with no understanding from the people around her, including from her teacher when her stuttering symptoms arose and even from her parents, she went through a hard time with classmates bullying and teasing her.



When Yuka Fukuoka was in Japan, she conducted many projects about the speech disorder called stuttering. Her project was mainly divided into two parts. The first was having created wearable devices which could perform a simulated experience of stuttering symptoms.

next-generation technology contest called Imagine Cup by Microsoft, and she cooperates with stuttering associations in the United States. "I would like to make use of my experience of suffering from stuttering and show empathy to such people concerned more than anyone else."

She became a semi-finalist in America for a

Advertisement for Maekake aprons, featuring images of various designs and pricing information. Includes text: 'Now is the time to spread Japanese traditional craftsman's skill', 'Art apron since Edo period', 'Maekake aprons have been used since 19th century for the purposes of advertisement and guarding hips. It is made of 100% cotton, thick fabric.' and 'Directly shipped from Japan!'.

Charity for East Japan Earthquake Disaster. 5% of profit through your purchase will be donated for recovery from Earthquake disaster in Tohoku (directly donated to Ishinomaki City in Miyagi Prefecture). Includes logo for 'Anything'.