VOICES From THE NEW YORKERS

Chef David Bouley and the Benefits of Kombu by Susan McCormac

If you've ever dabbled in Japanese cooking, you know that kombu, type of seaweed, is an essential



ingredient of dashi, or stock. But did you know that this edible sea vegetable from Japan has a host of health benefits?

Chef David Bouley knows very well, and it's his goal to make everyone aware and to get this ancient cuisine into everyone's home. The restaurateur encountered kombu 22 years ago while learning to make dashi under the tutelage of Yoshiki Tsuji of the Tsuji Culinary Institute. A proponent of healthy eating, Chef Bouley discovered that kombu is rich in dietary fibers and minerals; is high in calcium, iron, Vitamin A and Vitamin B1; and has zero calories. He's been using the



ingredient in his cooking ever since.

He recently held lunch and dinner seminars at his test kitchen. With Takashi Okui, a kombu master from a traditional kombu purveyor outside of Kyoto, Chef Bouley discussed kombu's health benefits and presented different types of seaweed in a divine, multi-course meal. The tasting included a type of kombu that's been aged for 31 years.

Chef David Bouley may serve French cuisine, but he knows a thing or two about the benefits of Japanese ingredients.

(Susan is the writer/editor of JapanCultureNYC, an English-language website for all things Japanese in New York.)

THE JAPAN VOICE

COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' Viewpoints



Japan Coast Guard Training Vessel Kojima in New York: **Mariners with Smiles on Their Faces**

The Japan Coast Guard Training Vessel Kojima (weighing 2950 tons, with 87 crews on board led by Captain Tonozaki, Kojima's commanding officer) is visiting five countries which is part of its around-theworld cruise. The ship arrived at the harbor in New York City, its second destination, on June 2.

There are 43 apprentices who graduated from the Japan Coast Guard Academy this spring and they will continue their training cruise until August 4 for a total of 101 days. These tanned apprentices invited the executives of the United States Coast Guard and hosted a reception. They demonstrated the Japanese art of fencing, Japanese tea ceremony, Japanese calligraphy and their cheering squad. More than 190 people participated from Japan and the United States, and they enjoyed giant-sized sushi which were made by the apprentices with big smiles on their faces. One of the apprentices, Shimano, 22, said, "It's been 19 days since we left San

Francisco and the food is really nice here in New York, too. It's such a gorgeous city." Shogo Takagi, 24, said with a smiling face, "Can't wait

for a day off tomorrow. I want to explore Manhattan."

Visitors to the vessel included Deputy Sector Commander Captain

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Jason Tama of the United States Coast Guard, Ambassador and Consul General of Japan in New York Kanji Yamanouchi, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations H.E. Dr. Toshiya Hoshino and Dr. Hoshino's wife.

Additional invited guests included Head of JNTO's New York branch Naoshi Ito, Chairman of the New York Japanese-American Lions Club Riki Ito and his executives, President of the New York Historical Issues Study Group Yasuhiro Takasaki and Chairman of JAA Women in Business Keiko Ishida, all of whom welcomed the vessel's visit.

Captain Tonozaki gave a speech to thank the United States Coast Guard for their cooperation which helps keep the situation in East Asia stable and peaceful. In addition, Kanji Yamanouchi and Jason Tama mentioned the importance of the alliance between Japan and the United States in their own speeches.

Six cadremen from the United States Coast Guard joined the training that took place in San Francisco for 19 days. Kojima departed from New York's harbor on June 6 to its next destination, Greece.

(Article and Photo by Ryoichi Miura/Translated by Chikako Iwasaki)



Takagi (second from left) and Shimano (far right) with the United States Coast Guard of New York

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