



YAYOI KUSAMA'S LOVE FLIES UP TO THE SKY AT THANKSGIVING

The art magazine "ARTnews" announced that a collaboration balloon by Macy's balloon specialists and Yayoi Kusama will soar over New York City as part of the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Kusama's balloon "Love Flies up to the Sky" recalls some of her recent ebullient paintings, taking the form of a personified sun, with an open mouth. Attached to the face are numerous red tentacles that are covered with more than 300 white polka dots, another Kusama trademark. This design comes from her art work series

"My Eternal Soul" which started in 2009. In terms of size, the artist's balloon will be in the middle of the spectrum, measuring 5 taxis long, 5 bicycles wide, and three stories tall. And it has 40 handles to carry. The project is part of the parade's Blue Sky Gallery program, begun in 2005, which has invited artists like Jeff Koons, Takashi Murakami, and Keith Haring to participate.

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade will start at 9am on Thursday November 28th. (Miyako Hamazaki/ Translated by Chikako Iwasaki)

JASSI Support the Japanese Community Held 38th Annual Dinner

Japanese American Social Service Inc.(CEO Ryoko Mochizuki) hosted the annual 38th dinner party in October 24th at the Yale Club in New York. The party started with the chorus from New York Mix Chorus, or NYMC. A gathering that will be held in November 8th at the Japanese Club for Hiroshi Aoki, the last CEO that passed away in December last year, was introduced. Distinguished service award was presented to Anita Guyana and Vanessa Lang of CACF.

Rie Katayama, the senior program manager explained last year's activities of the company. According to Katayama, they helped 1,188 people 4,806 times and 90 percent of them needed Japanese assistance. 480 of them were elders, and 80 percent of them were in a poor financial condition. She explained how they need the support from the Japanese community. Hikaru Aono, who has been volunteering mainly with food, talked about taking care of a former

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COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' Viewpoints



Ryohei Kanokogi(3rd from the left)and Jean Kanokogi next to him

Coney Island Street Named for Rena "Rusty" Kanokogi, The Mother of Women's Judo

The corner of Coney Island's Surf Avenue and West 17th Street became Rena "Rusty" Kanokogi Way to posthumously honor the Brooklyn native who has been known to those in the national and international judo community as "the mother of women's judo".

The co-naming ceremony took place Sunday, October 27, from 11am – 12:30pm at 1904 Surf Avenue, Brooklyn. In the event of rain, the ceremony moved indoors to the Gallery Meeting space in MCU Park, located directly across the street. The dedication came one day before World Judo Day, which is annually celebrated on October 28th in honor of the birthday of the founder of the sport of judo, Master Jigoro Kano. VIPs and guest speakers at the ceremony include: Mr. Mark Treyger, NYC Council Member, 47th District o Hon. Devin P. Cohen – Master of Ceremonies, Member of USA Judo's Board of Directors, Student of Rusty Kanokogi, Mr. Kenju Murakami, Deputy Consul-General of Japan in New York & Director of the Japan Information Center o Mr. Oscar Cassinerio – President, Confederacion Argentina de Judo and Executive Committee Member of the International

Judo Federation and the Pan American Judo Confederation. Mr. Keith Bryant – CEO of USA Judo, Mrs. Eve Aronoff-Trivella – 1988 US Olympian and Student of Rusty Kanokogi, Dr. Jean Kanokogi – Former Member, US National Judo Team, Daughter and Student of Rusty Kanokogi.

Born in Coney Island, Rena "Rusty" Kanokogi was a fighter from birth. By taking her fight from the streets of Brooklyn to the mat, Kanokogi found her true passion: Judo. It was the sport that brought her to the 1959 New York State

YMCA Judo Championships as a member of the Brooklyn Central YMCA team. However, after winning, the judges forced her to forfeit her gold medal when they discovered that she was a woman competing in disguise as a man.

In 1980, Kanokogi organized the first women's Judo world champi-



onship in what was formerly Madison Square Garden's Felt Forum, sponsoring it by mortgaging her own home. Having a world championship was a prerequisite for women's judo to be considered as an Olympic sport. She was the driving force behind the inclusion of women's Judo at the 1988 Olympic Games as an exhibition sport, subsequently becoming a fully vetted Olympic sport in 1992. Women's Judo would not be where it is today without her relentless efforts. (Photo by Ryoichi Miura)



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