

VOICES From THE NEW YORKERS

Americans Count Their Blessings, but Japanese Laborers Lament?

by Ashley Matarama

One of the big November holidays in the United States is Thanksgiving, but did you know Japan also has a thanksgiving holiday? Whereas the last Thursday of November is Thanksgiving Day for Americans, (November 28 this year), Japan's Kinro Kansha no Hi or Labor Thanksgiving Day is celebrated on November 23 every year. It's akin to Labor Day in September.



Unfortunately this year, in an ironic twist, it seems Japanese laborers did not get to have a day off on the day meant to celebrate them. The reason is that according to Japanese law, only holidays that fall on a Sunday are to be observed on Monday, essentially creating a three day weekend. But this year Labor Thanksgiving fell on Saturday, so for those who work Monday to Friday, it was no different from their usual weekend off.

Meanwhile, although the history of Thanksgiving has been a topic of contention, most present day Americans see it as a time for loved ones to gather around the dining table and reflect. What were you thankful for this year as you ate your delicious meal?

The 23rd falls on a Monday next year, for which the Japanese will certainly be thankful!

THE JAPAN VOICE

COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' Viewpoints



Gallery owner Nana Onishi (left) explains the beauty of Obata Pink by artist Yuji Obata (center) to art dealer Bertrand Epaud (right) of The Dali Universe. Obata's art focus is on cherry blossoms.

SAKURA SPRING Featuring OBATA PINK Fascinates New Yorkers at Onishi Gallery

Yuji Obata, an Arita ware artist, held his third exhibition at Onishi Gallery in Chelsea from November 12 to 23. He is a rare artist who makes porcelain on a potter's wheel and draws the decorations by himself. He introduced his new work, "SAKURA SPRING," based on his main motif of cherry blossoms. On his pots, the blossoms bloom in full glory,

Middle School Students of NJ Japanese School Exchange Friendship with Rutgers Prep

The middle schoolers of The New Jersey Japanese School (NJJS), led by Principal Haruhisa Usui, visited Rutgers Preparatory School (RPS) on October 25. At first the NJJS students were nervous, but thanks to a warm welcome from their designated partners at RPS, they were able to get along perfectly. After a simple introduction, the NJJS students attended classes with their RPS partners.

Through two classes in the morning and one in the afternoon, the NJJS students experienced the differences between the education styles of the United States and Japan. In history class,

the students took a quiz on the iPad with their partners. The students also learned to introduce themselves in French and talked about English grammar. Because the students at RPS were kind to the middle schoolers, they were able to attend the classes with enthusiasm. During lunchtime, the middle schoolers used their English speaking skills that they have been learning to communicate with their partners. During the free period, the middle schoolers went around the school with their partners, noting the differences between their schools.



The middle schoolers who had attended this exchange program in previous years were glad to reunite with their past partners, who noticed the growth in their English skills. The first timers were nervous about their English at first, but by the end of the day, they were reluctant to leave. This event is something special for the middle schoolers as it encourages cultural interaction between the United States and Japan. (Original article provided by The New Jersey Japanese School/Translated by Kanta Hakamata)



delicate and magical. The tone of pink he created is called "Obata Pink." It is lively and beautiful, and it's a color that barely any other artists can successfully master.

Many guests related to the art industry were invited to the reception which was held on the 12th, including Bertrand Epaud, art dealer of The Dali Universe from France, and Stephen Globus, owner of Globus Chashitsu. Epaud said, "His creations make people's minds refreshed - very detailed and delicate. He controls the beauty of his art. His works are masterpieces." Epaud was seen telling his client over the phone how wonderful Obata's work is. Obata said, "Cherry blossoms are the main motif of my work. I want to create more pieces aboard." He promised to return to the starting line and be more active in the art scene.

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



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