VOICES From THE NEW YORKERS

Mr. Peter Malkin: **Model Citizen**

by Kojiro Matthew Ichida

While in many ways Japan and the United States are different, they are similar through their appreciation of the beauty their history



and natural environments. In order to maintain these, there requires meaningful philanthropy from individuals through many different organizations and collaborative effort. Mr. Peter Malkin of Greenwich, CT is an excellent example of an individual who has helped preserve the natural and historic beauty of the world in which he lives.

In Japan, highways' road maintenance and construction are a privatized industry paid for through many expensive tolls. Contrarily in the United States, roadways are publicly owned and serviced, which can often lead to less maintenance. Mr. Malkin is the chairman and founder of the Merritt Parkway Conservancy, whose goal is to maintain the ecological and aesthetic beauty of the historic parkway after

Japan News

which it is named, the only parkway on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. Many initiatives have been carried out by the Merritt Parkway Conservancy, which is entirely privately run and funded, including the preservation of many historic rest stops, overpasses and native

While Japan and its cities like Tokyo focus more on individual responsibility of their waste, the United States has a stronger emphasis on public waste disposal. Mr. Malkin addresses this issue through Greenwich Green and Clean, which he founded, with the placement of glossy green receptacles for waste disposal throughout his local community. By keeping uniformity of color and design, waste is reduced not only physically, but also in a visually pleasant manner. He has similarly worked with local newspapers

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COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' Viewpoints



TOGETHER FOR 3.11

8th Anniversary Memorial for Japan's Earthquake and Tsunami Victims to Be Held on Sunday, March 10

TOGETHER FOR 3.11 8th Anniversary Memorial for Japan's Earthquake and Tsunami Victims will be held on Sunday, March 10 from 4:45 to 6:15 p.m. at the First Church of Christ, Scientist on 10 W. 68th Street at Central Park West. Doors open at 4:00 p.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free, and donations will be accepted for the Japan Earthquake Relief Fund.

Fellowship for Japan, a coalition of Japan Relief organizations, is holding its annual memorial to commemorate

to use the same green receptacles for periodicals. Additionally, Greenwich Green and Clean also improves the local community's atmosphere with hanging floral baskets across the town; winter baskets are primarily prepared by Japanese-American women. In New York City, Mr. Malkin has also established an organization committed to the beautification of the Garment District, the goal of which is also to help preserve a very special historic part of Manhattan.

Through the Japanese School of New York, where Mr. Malkin sits on the advisory committee, Mr. Malkin has engaged local Japanese residents to help in local the anniversary of the 3.11 earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear Disaster that devastated the Tohoku region of Japan in 2011. Moderated by UNIVERSAL MUSIC Japan Recording Artist AK Akemi Kakihara and TOGETHER FOR 3.11 Executive Director, the event will be a somber and hopeful tribute to those who lost their lives and who are still recovering from the disaster, featuring in-person speeches by leaders of the Japanese American community in New York and video messages from Japan.

beach cleanups sponsored by Greenwich Green and Clean; these residents form the largest number of participants in these cleanups.

As founder and leader of many various organizations, Mr. Malkin is promoting positive changes in his local community and beyond, helping the environment while preserving its valuable history and culture; it is admirable individuals like Mr. Malkin who provide much hope for the future of our communities and the world.

Ikinari Steak **Closing 7 Locations U.S. President Kawano** Swears a Great Comeback

On February 14th, Kuni's Corporation (U.S. President Hideki Kawano), which currently runs 11 locations in the United States, announced that they will be closing seven locations by June 2019. Only Ikinari Steak East Village, the first location in the U.S., and Ikinari Steak 5th Avenue will remain open. Two other locations, including one on Broadway, will be converted into the chain restaurant Pepper Lunch.

The company opened its first location on February 23, 2017. The chain soon began a huge expansion, and ended up opening 11 locations in New York City. It debuted in the Nasdaq stock exchange in October 2018 to promote its brand image and level of confidence in American customers.

President Kawano explained the reason for the closings in a phone interview. "We opened too many locations in a short time. We didn't have enough time to promote to customers and educate our employees. Most of the locations are busy at lunch time, but quiet at dinner time; it's one of the reasons that we couldn't make enough profit. In American culture, going to a steak restaurant means having a special family dinner relaxing together. We realized that Japanese casual dining style, like standing and eating steak, takes more time to be accepted in America. We lost the first round, but will thrive in the second round." He appeared enthusiastic about a great comeback of the business. (Written by Ryoichi Miura /

Translated by Etsuko Noda)



H.I.S. to Open a Hotel on West 35th Street in New York

Travel agency H.I.S. is set to open its first hotel in Manhattan, on West 35th Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues, in 2019 through its New York subsidiary. H.I.S. purchased the 18-story building that used to house the Windham Hotel last June, and renovation work has been underway by Kajima USA. When it opens its doors to guests, the Watermark Hotel Manhattan, New York will have 92 guest rooms offered for \$220-250 a night, and will be equipped with Japanese-style deep bathtubs and "Washlet" toilet seats. Floors 11-18 will have deluxe rooms, larger than the standard 350 square feet.

H.I.S. expects to link its future hotel business in the United States with its existing worldwide network to support travelers, and has been strategizing its launch for five years. At the 35th Street site, H.I.S. hopes to attract business travelers based on its proximity to places such as the Jacob Javits Convention Center and Hudson Yards. It is currently looking for a restaurant to take over the first-floor space that the existing Chinese-fusion eatery is set to vacate.

The Watermark Hotel Manhattan will be the second hotel fully owned by a Japanese firm after The Kitano New York. H.I.S. hopes to solidify the foothold of its hotel business in New York, and expand to Dallas, Las Vegas, Orlando and Los Angeles, said Hiroshi Jitsumasa, Managing Director of the hotel.

(Written by Ryoichi Miura / Translated by Kenji Nakano)



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Charity for East Japan Earthquake Disaster



Haiku in English may consider the following as a model:

Across the still lake through upcurls of morning mist

The cry of a loon

- O. Mabson Southard

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