

Taunton woman bound for Land of Rising Sun

By KAREN CUBIE
Gazette Staff Writer

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Barbara LeClerc, 24, is going to Japan to teach English for one year because she wants to help make the world a smaller place. She wasn't surprised when she was selected from 700 applicants for one of the 173 available positions with the Council on International Educational Exchange (C.I.E.E.).

"I wouldn't have applied if I didn't feel in my gut this is something I was supposed to be doing," the daughter of Cecile LeClerc of 7 Eastbridge Rd., and Normand LeClerc of Alfred Lord Boulevard 7 said. "Some people in this world have the ability to survive in a foreign culture. I am one of these people, so I have the responsibility of doing that."

"I feel, the world being as corrupt as it is, we need to make it a little smaller by exchanging scholars, artists, and teachers to help people understand the rest of the world," she continued. "They should bring (the culture) back home with (them) to relay to the people of their own culture."

A 1985 graduate of the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, Md., where she was a student of art and language, travel is not new to her. In 1984, she studied in France and Italy as an exchange student.

"I'm not quite fluent in French, but I carry a conversation," she said. "My Italian is very broken. I also traveled in Spain and Switzerland that year."

"My other travels have been on the east coast of the U.S.," she continued. "It's ironic I haven't been anywhere else in the U.S."



BARBARA LECLERC
Headed for Japan

Japan popular place

She heard about the C.I.E.E. program through her job helping foreign students and scholars obtain visas and deal with cultural issues at Harvard University's International Office.

"I've been interested in going to Japan for a few years when I started traveling," she said. "The C.I.E.E. was appealing because everything is set for you before you go. A lot of organizations support the exchange of scholars, teachers and artists. It's popular now, especially with Japan because English is necessary for their communication with the rest of the world."

Nakosone, the present prime minister, is enthusiastic about cultural exchange.

"Now the Japanese are learning to speak English," she said. "They previously only learned to read and write English."

"They do a lot of trade with the U.S.," she continued. "That's why it's important to bring Americans in, rather than, say, Australians."

Miss LeClerc was recruited by the C.I.E.E., but she was actually hired by the Mombusho, the Japanese Ministry of Education.

"I did a preliminary application which enabled me to do the interview, and the final application," she said. "The C.I.E.E. referred me to the Mombusho, and I was hired to work as a Mombusho English fellow teaching English in Japanese high schools."

Emotional stability, a B.A. degree from a North American University, working skills of English grammar, and good pronunciation, were the main qualifications for the job.

Miss LeClerc will travel from high school to high school across Japan.

"I will be a visitor in the class room," she said. "There will be a Japanese teacher besides myself, and I will have to travel to many different high schools throughout the week. The purpose is to place a foreigner in front of young Japanese students to help them be not so ethnocentric."

Attention to color

The light-haired, light-skinned, and light-eyed young woman doesn't think her coloring hurt her chances when she applied for the job.

"But I don't think it was the reason I got the position, either," she stressed. "They need to show the world Americans aren't only light skinned with light hair and light eyes."

She's anticipating a lot of attention because of her coloring.

"There will be constant attention," she said, "and some resentment."

LIVING



NEW OFFICERS: Rainbow officers installed recently included (from left), Simone Derosiers (Hope); Amanda King, worthy advisor, Doris Gove, associate worthy advisor, and Nancy Reardon (Faith).

Rainbow Girls hold installation banquet

Amanda Marie King, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. King, was installed as worthy advisor of the Taunton Assembly 13 International Order of Rainbow for Girls in ceremonies held at the Masonic Temple.

The installing officer was Beth Jo-Ann Tipping, past worthy advisor of Taunton Assembly 13, and Grand Representative of the State of Nevada in Massachusetts.

Other elected officers of the assembly include: Doris Gove, worthy associate advisor; Simone Derosiers, Hope; Nancy Reardon, Faith; Beth Tipping, recorder; Sherri Derosiers, chaplain; Holly Cayon, drill leader; Judith Cordeiro, religion; Kristen Oliveira, Nature; Rebecca Jackson, Immortality; Rebecca Shurtleff, Fidelity; Cathy Overlock, Confidential Observer; Cynthia Bither, Outer Observer; Kendra Schum, American Flag Bearer; Vicki Ikasalo, State Flag Bearer; Catherine Russo, Christian Flag Bearer.

The remainder of the installing

suite consisted of: Lisa Larocque, installing recorder and past worthy advisor to Leominster Assembly 80; Holly Cayon, installing chaplain and past worthy advisor to Taunton Assembly 13; Cynthia Bither, installing marshal and past worthy advisor to Taunton Assembly 13; Melissa DeMaria, installing soloist and past worthy advisor to Framingham Assembly 47, and Robert Phillips, organist.

The Taunton Assembly Advisory Board and the Rainbow Mothers Club provided refreshments for the collation that followed the installation. Maria Jones is the mother advisor for the Taunton Assembly.

The Advisory Board is sponsoring a breakfast on Sunday, from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Taunton Masonic Lodge at 66 Winthrop Street, consisting of eggs, bacon or sausages, home fries, toast or muffins, juice and coffee.

The breakfast is open to the public.

Child's love for food flourished in France

(This is the fourth part in a series of stories about food specialist Julia Child.)

By JOHN DEMERS
UPI Food Editor

until midday, when she rushed home to try out her latest kitchen technique on Paul.

These were the waning days of ironclad culinary tradition when

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"I'm sure there'll be times when I'll need to get stressed. In order to be a good teacher, I may have to do that."

Raw fish healthy

Japanese food won't be a problem for her.

"Sometimes I get a little weak when I think about raw fish," she said. "But I have a lot of Japanese friends at work, and I have no problem with eating rice every day, or Niso soup for breakfast."

She thinks its one of the healthier diets.

"It's low in fats — they use no animal fats," she said. "They eat a lot of fish, and a lot of calcium is provided in the sea weed. There's a lot of protein in the soy products. (The value of the diet) may be proven by the longevity of the Japanese people."

Japanese people are growing larger because they have been introduced to the western diet, so the five-foot-six-inch Miss LeClerc should have no problem finding clothing.

"But shoes will be a problem," she said. "Someone told me to pack a whole case of shoes, and to bring bras if you wear over a B cup. So I'm bringing a suitcase full of bras and shoes."

She will live alone in Kanagawa-Ken, in an apartment above a grocery store.

"It has one tatami (a grass mat on a Japanese floor)," she said.

"That's how you know how large an apartment is. It means I'll have one room with a kitchen — like a studio. Every apartment comes with a rice cooker."

Her flight to Japan and back will be paid by the Mambusho, and they will pay her wages at a Japanese rate for her services. She doesn't plan to save any money.

"I think I'll be using what I make," she said. "I hope to travel to China and Russia. I have no interest in saving money."

Back to art

Once in Japan, she plans to get involved with art once again.

"I haven't been making art since I started working," she said. "It was important that I take a break. Now I'm ready to begin again."

Her work is contemporary sculpture.

"I plan to do that when I'm over there," she said, explaining the materials she uses change according to her environment. "I will work with what I find. I take a lot of materials from trash heaps, and I never pay for my art supplies."

She is expecting some lifestyle changes.

"There will be a loss of privacy," she said. "It is a more rigid society, and I am not used to being a minority — to being of a lower status because I'm a woman."

"That's something we take for granted in this country," she continued. "It's not that we don't need to think about it, but we (as women) have a lot more space to do what we want to do, although I do respect the Japanese woman a lot, because she controls the finances of the household and the children's education, and she loves being a woman."

Her flight to Japan leaves June 23 from New York.

"We'll get one week of orientation in Tokyo provided by the C.I.E.E.," she said. "Then the Mamubusho will provide English workshops and other cultural information."

She has spent the past few weeks taking pictures of American culture and family events like birthdays, and picnics for lectures she will be expected to give.

"I'll miss family, specifically my nieces and nephews," she said.

She doesn't know what else she'll miss.

"I guess I won't know until I get there," she said.