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Felissimo Design House
celebrates
Tanabata



New York, NY 2005 – Felissimo Design House will celebrate the Japanese tradition of **Tanabata**, also known as the Star Festival, from July 7 – 30, 2005. This festival celebrates the yearly reunion of *Orihime* and *Hikoboshi*, two lovers separated by a river of stars. There are many legends about the origin of *Tanabata*, the most well known is as follows:

Once there was a princess named *Orihime*. She wove cloth for the Gods with a special weaving machine called *tanahata*. (It is believed that the word *Tanabata* comes from this machine.) Her father *Ten-Kou*, God of the Sky, introduced her to *Hikoboshi*, a cow herder who lived on the other side of the *Amanogawa River* (also known as the Milky Way).

They fell in love immediately and spent all their time together. As a result, they neglected their jobs and the cows grew ill and the weaving of cloth ceased. This made *Ten-Kou* very angry and he prohibited *Orihime* from meeting *Hikoboshi* any further. The two lovers became so sad that they could no longer function. *Ten-Kou*, feeling remorseful, agreed to allow them to meet once a year on July 7th if they worked diligently throughout the rest of the year.

Excited, *Orihime* and *Hikoboshi* worked as hard as they had before they met and looked forward to seeing each other on the one day of the year granted by *Ten-Kou*. If it rains on this occasion however, *Amanogawa River* floods and prevents the lovers from meeting.

For this festival, people traditionally wish for a clear sky on July 7th so that the two fated lovers can meet. They also make wishes for themselves on small strips of colored tanzaku paper and hang them on bamboo branches. From July 7 – 30, Felissimo Design House will celebrate Tanabata by presenting bamboo plants on their first floor and offering strips of *tanzaku* paper for guests to make their wishes.

In relation to Tanabata, Felissimo Design House will host the following events on July 7th:

4:00 – 6:00pm Rev. Mitsutaka Inui, who is a Shinto priest and the Chief Officer of **The International Shinto Foundation**, will be present to explain the traditions of Tanabata. His introduction will be followed by Miko-mai, a Japanese ceremonial dance, which will be performed by shrine maidens. Bamboo branches will also be present for guests to place their written wishes.

6:30 – 8:30pm Author Alexander Stadler will explain the first step in his whimsical book "**Four Steps to Love**." This book outlines a simple program for finding the soul mate you deserve by putting your best foot forward.

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