



# Northern and Central California Sister Cities Newsletter



The Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco

July/August 2015, Issue 16

## News this Issue...

- ❖ Consul General Yamada Arrives in San Francisco
- ❖ CA-Japan Sister City Relationships Grow to 101
- ❖ Santa Clara Sister Cities Association Update
- ❖ Palo Alto Students Visit Tsuchiura
- ❖ Kawakami Watsonville Sister City News
- ❖ Oakland and Fukuoka Mayors Meet
- ❖ Hercules Friendship Delegation to Visit Tsushima
- ❖ Sausalito Sends 13 Students to Sakaide
- ❖ Fairfield's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Japan Fest

### Sister City Information from the Consulate

- ❖ [Sister City List](#)
- ❖ [Sister City Photo Gallery](#)
- ❖ [Consulate Website](#)
- ❖ [Consulate Facebook](#)

## News from the Consulate

### Consul General Yamada Arrives in San Francisco



My name is Jun Yamada and I am honored to be in San Francisco serving as the new Consul General. I arrived in this beautiful city in late May and am excited to continue the Consulate's mission of fostering close relations between California and Japan. I have worked for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for over 30 years, serving in various capacities in such places as Russia, Thailand, Belgium, and the United States.

I am especially excited to be working with the sister city organizations of Northern and Central California because I believe people to people exchanges are some of the most valuable experiences that preserve working relationships between countries. California and Japan currently have over 100 sister city relationships already, but it is always this office's role to expand such relationships where possible, as well as to support the strengthening of existing ones. I hope that under my tenure we can develop these relationships to promote the exchange of our peoples and mutual understanding. I commend all of you for your hard work in keeping these communities alive and cannot wait to meet and work with you in the coming year!

Sincerely,

Jun Yamada

### CA-Japan Sister City Relationships Grow to 101

On July 21, Menlo Park Mayor Catherine Carlton and Bizen City Mayor Takeshi Yoshimura signed a sister city agreement in Japan. During Mayor Carlton's 4-day stay, she visited Bizen City Hall, the Edo-period Shizutani School, and was even able to try her hand at pottery making. The two cities have agreed to form their friendship in pursuit of mutual understanding through various educational, cultural, civic, and economic exchanges. Bizen City is located in Okayama Prefecture and is very famous for its Bizen ware pottery, the process for which includes the oldest pottery making techniques in Japan.



Mayor Catherine Carlton and Mayor Takeshi Yoshimura shake hands after signing the agreement

# News from the Sister Cities

## Past Events

### Santa Clara Sister Cities Association Update

By Kathy Watanabe, President, Santa Clara Sister Cities Association  
(Edited for length)

Santa Clara Sister Cities hosted two student exchanges this spring: our traditional middle school exchange with Izumo, Japan in late March, and an additional student exchange with 16 high school students from Izumo High School in early March. The high school exchange was part of program initiated by the Japanese government called "Super Global High School Program," which aims to foster global leaders. Students are equipped with an awareness and deep knowledge of social issues, communication and problem-solving skills, and other globally competitive skills. The students spent 5 days in Santa Clara visiting Apple and other corporations, the Tech Museum, Adrian Wilcox High School and quality time with their host families. Prior to coming to Santa Clara, the Japanese Club at Wilcox High School and Izumo High School students Skyped at least once a month to get to know each other and discuss issues that were important to them. We look forward to welcoming them again in January 2016.

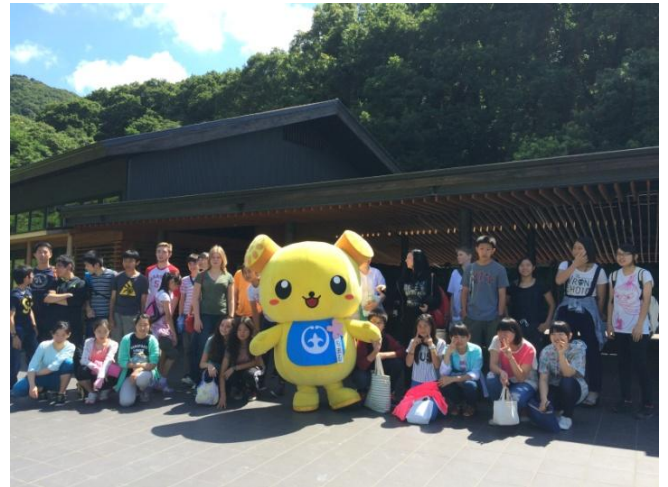


Students with their host families

### Palo Alto Students Visit Tsuchiura

By Diana Nemet, Tsuchiura Liaison, Neighbors Abroad  
(Edited for length)

From June 9-21, 15 students and four chaperones traveled to Tsuchiura. The students spent two days attending junior high school in Tsuchiura. We also visited the Tokyo Skytree, Asakusa and the Edo-Toyko Museum, the shrines and temples of Nikko, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Miyajima, and Himeji Castle.



Students posing with the Tsuchiura mascot, Tsuchimaru

The City of Tsuchiura also arranged for our students to learn how to make soba noodles from scratch and also arranged for us to attend a meditation and tea ceremony.



The group visiting a shrine in Nikko

## Event Calendar

### July

7/30 Sausalito students leave for Sakaide  
7/22-8/3 Hercules students leave for Tsushima

### August

8/2 Welcome BBQ for Omura students in San Carlos  
8/4-8 Bizen students visit Menlo Park  
8/5 Shimonoseki students visit the Consulate  
8/12 Nanao students visit the Consulate  
8/15 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Japan Fest in Fairfield  
8/17 Shingu students visit the Consulate

The last day of our visit, we held an appreciation party to thank everyone in Tsuchiura for all of the kindness and generosity shown to us. All the students from both Palo Alto and Tsuchiura were there, as well as the Palo Alto chaperones, Tsuchiura host families, Mr. Hideaki Goto (Vice Mayor of Tsuchiura), Mr. Kiyoshi Yaguchi (Chairperson of Tsuchiura City Council), and Mr. Hiroshi Sekozawa (President of Tsuchiura International Association).

## Past Events

### Kawakami Watsonville Sister City News

By Robb Mayeda, Kawakami Watsonville Sister City Association  
(Edited for length)

The fourteen Watsonville middle school students (including Kokoro no Gakko's Kai Gavin and Nicole Garcia-Kimura) returned home on May 19. After attending the Kawakami Junior High School, the host families took the students to Matsumoto Castle on Saturday. On Sunday, the family journey to a nearby mountain retreat for hiking and a barbecue. The photo below shows our students and their host buddies. On Monday, it was onto Tokyo, where they stayed in Asakusa District. The next day, the group shopped and went to Narita Airport. The return flight only took a little over ten hours on a new ANA Boeing 787 Dreamliner. All the parents picked up their tired children on time.



*Madelyn and her host sister*

You can view dozens of photos by going to Facebook and searching "Kawakami-mura 2015" and "Kawakami Watsonville Sister City Association."



*Students and their host families at a mountain retreat*

Thank you for your support at our various fundraisers. We look forward to welcoming the Kawakami Junior High School students this fall.

### Oakland and Fukuoka Mayors Meet

By Rachel Perrin, Oakland Fukuoka Sister City Association (Edited for length)

On June 16, Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf and Fukuoka Mayor Soichiro Takashima were able to meet at the City Innovate Summit in San Francisco and were joined by OFSCA Co-Presidents Ed Bantilan and Susan Svensson as well as Board Member Becky Taylor.



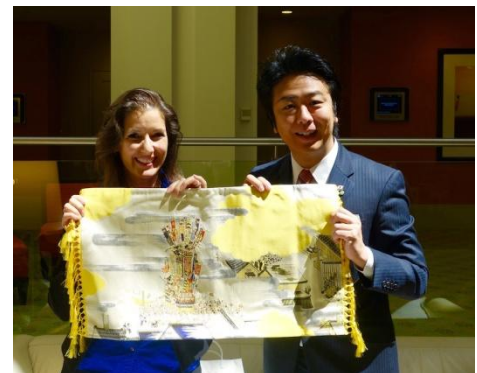
*From left to right: Co-Presidents Ed Bantilan & Susan Svensson, Fukuoka Mayor Takashima, OFSCA Board Member Becky Taylor*

The summit was organized by the City Innovate Foundation, which is focused on creating economic development, improving the quality of city life and creating jobs for citizens and included mayors and urban planning leaders from around the world.



*Mayor Schaaf and Mayor Takashima having a discussion*

OFSCA was happy to be able to facilitate the meeting between Mayor Schaaf and Mayor Takashima, thus strengthening the bond between Oakland and Fukuoka.



*Mayor Takashima presents Mayor Schaaf with a souvenir from Fukuoka*

## Future Events

### Hercules Friendship Delegation to Visit Tsushima

By Lynn Fissell, President, Hercules Sister City Association (Edited for length)

Since their selection by the Hercules Sister City Association as Youth Ambassadors, three Hercules High students have been conducting fundraising events. They have been learning a speech about themselves in Japanese as well as absorbing many Japanese customs that will prepare them for their two week trip to Japan during late July and early August 2015. Accompanied by three adult chaperones, their homestay experience in Tsushima will include a welcome potluck event attended by many citizens and City officials where they will be re-acquainted with the members of the Tsushima Friendship Delegation that visited Hercules in early August 2014. Other events will be witnessing the Owari Tsushima Tenno Festival and tours of selected cultural sites. After leaving Tsushima, tours of Hiroshima, Kyoto, and Tokyo will round out their immersion in as much of what Japan has to offer as time will allow.



Hercules Youth Ambassadors to Tsushima

### Sausalito Sends 13 Students to Sakaide

By EV Gilbreath, Sausalito Sister Cities (Edited for length)

The cities of Sausalito and Sakaide are celebrating another sister city anniversary this year. On July 30 a delegation made up of 13 students aged 15-17 years, the Mayor, his wife, and chaperones (including one of the Co-Chairs of Sausalito Sakaide Sister Cities) are departing for a 10-day cultural exchange. Students will experience a full immersion into Japanese life as they reside with local families and participate in multiple activities planned by their hosts in Sakaide. The students will experience the operations of the City Council, attend Rotary lunches, give speeches, and participate in the annual Taiko Dai and Dance Festival, as well as many other activities. Mayor Hiroshi Aya has invited the delegation to a fireworks ceremony on August 9 to celebrate the Ohashi Festival. The delegation returns to Sausalito on August 11.

## Fairfield's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Japan Fest

By Kelley Cortright, Event Chair, Fairfield-Nirasaki Sister City Program



The Fairfield-Nirasaki Sister City Program will hold its 3rd annual "Japan Fest" fundraising event on Saturday, August 15. It will run from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Fairfield Community Center at 1000 Kentucky Street. People of all ages are welcome, and tickets will be available online or at the door.

There will be exciting performances and activities for all ages, as well as great food provided by local restaurant Tokyo Grill. Performers include traditional and Okinawan dance groups from the Bay Area, as well as professional Kendama players. Children and families can do origami and calligraphy, and learn about many other aspects of traditional Japanese culture, such as Ikebana, at our numerous activity and game tables. There will also be a raffle of local and Japanese goods.

At the 2nd annual "Japan Fest" fundraising event held last year, the Fairfield-Nirasaki Sister City Program welcomed around 150 guests for three hours of amazing experiences that helped strengthen the bonds between our community and our sister city in Japan. The proceeds from the event also made it possible for the Program to host six Japanese students and a chaperone this past winter, continuing a 28 year-old tradition of winter and summer student exchanges between Fairfield and Nirasaki. Please contact Event Chair Kelley Cortright at [fairfieldsistercity@gmail.com](mailto:fairfieldsistercity@gmail.com) for more information.

### Call for Submissions



Have a story, opinion, or event you'd like to share? Submit it for the next issue of the newsletter! The input from your organizations is what makes the newsletter informative and interesting. The deadline for the next issue is **August 31**. Please direct all submissions to: [kevin.odonnell@sr.mofa.go.jp](mailto:kevin.odonnell@sr.mofa.go.jp)