



News this Issue...

- ❖ Sister City Workshop
- ❖ Visit Japan Festival in San Francisco
- ❖ SF Japantown and Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festivals
- ❖ Fairfield Winter Student Exchange
- ❖ 20th Senshu International City Marathon

Sister City Information from the Consulate

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

News from the Consulate

Sister City Workshop at the Consulate

On March 8th, twenty-eight representatives from twenty-one Sister City organizations in Northern and Central California attended the first ever Sister City Workshop and Luncheon at the Consulate in San Francisco. Consul General Hiroshi Inomata and Vice Consul Kei Hagiwara delivered remarks to the representatives, who then discussed issues such as student exchanges, fundraising, and community outreach in smaller groups. The discussion provided a forum for exchanging advice and illuminated similar struggles the organizations face. A lively lunch followed the productive talks. Thanks to the enthusiasm and support from the sister city groups, the Consulate hopes to continue these workshops.



Visit Japan Festival in San Francisco

On February 9th and 10th, the “Visit Japan Festival in San Francisco” was held at Union Square, San Francisco to attract more people to visit Japan. At the opening ceremony, Consul General Hiroshi Inomata welcomed the visitors and guest speakers Mr. Mark Chandler, Director of the Mayor’s Office of International Trade & Commerce, and Mr. Phil Ginsburg, General Manager of San Francisco’s Recreation and Parks Department followed. Both days were blessed with fine weather, and approximately 14,000 people visited the 30 booths, displaying sightseeing attractions, food, culture, and technology. At the main stage tent, performers showcased programs with traditional performing arts, music, lectures, and demonstrations.

SF Japantown Cherry Blossom Festival

Every year the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco participates in the Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival. This year the Festival will be held on April 13th-14th & April 20th-21st. On Saturday, April 13th, Consul General Inomata will offer greetings at the Opening Ceremony. The Grand Parade will take place on Sunday, April 21st from Civic Center at 1:00 pm, arriving in Japantown around 1:45 pm.

Please join us and help celebrate the season of cherry blossoms in two fun filled weekends of Japanese music, dance, art, culture, and food!

For more information please visit:

<http://sfcherryblossom.org/index.php/features/grand-parade>

Additionally, if you are interested in having a booth for your program at the Festival, please contact Ms. Tina Alcantara at: nccbfnonprofit@gmail.com

News from the Sister Cities

➤ Upcoming Events

Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival

On Saturday, April 27th, and Sunday, April 28th, Cupertino will hold its 30th Annual Cherry Blossom Festival to honor its sister city relationship with Toyokawa, Japan. It will be held at Memorial Park on Stevens Creek Blvd. in Cupertino, across from DeAnza College, from 10 AM to 5 PM. There will be Japanese and American food, outdoor entertainment by taiko drum groups, classical Japanese dancers, martial art schools, musical groups, as well as indoor activities. Admission is free, so please come and join Cupertino celebrate the spring season in the Japanese style!



Call for Submissions

Have a story, opinion or event you'd like to share? Submit it for the next issue of the newsletter! It is input from your organizations that make the newsletter informative! The deadline is **May 15th**. Please direct all submissions to:

Katherine.andresen@sr.mofa.go.jp

Event Calendar

March

8 Sister City Workshop
9 Tsuchiura students arrive in Palo Alto
17 Pancake Breakfast at Watsonville HS
23 Takeo students arrive in Sebastopol
26 Izumo students arrive in Santa Clara

Past Events

Fairfield Winter Student Exchange

The City of Fairfield's Sister City Program recently hosted six students and their chaperone from Nirasaki, Japan. The three boys and three girls, ages 14 – 16, stayed with host families in Fairfield for a three-week visit over the holiday season, celebrating the 25th year of the annual student exchange. The students visited San Francisco, UC Berkeley, and Monterey, and were given a private tour of the State Capitol during a day in Sacramento. After the tour, which included a climb inside the Capitol's dome, they also received State Assembly and Senate certificates of recognition from Assemblyman Jim Frazier. The final week of their trip included visits to seven public schools in Fairfield, where the students enjoyed classroom visits, club meetings, and interviews on the closed-circuit TV channel at one of the high schools.

20th Senshu International City Marathon

Every year since 1994, Sakai, Japan has invited a guest runner from its sister city, Berkeley, to participate in the Senshu International City Marathon. This year Sakai invited two runners from Berkeley, as 2013 marked the 20th anniversary of the marathon. Alfonso Munoz, a City of Berkeley firefighter, and Doug Royer, a software engineer, represented Berkeley and ran the marathon on Sunday, February 17th. Their visit included a meeting with Mayor Takeyama and visits to Mikunigaoka kindergarten, the Nanshuji Temple, the Sakai City Museum, and the Nintoku Tumulus. They stayed with 2 wonderful host families and experienced wagashi making and a traditional tea ceremony.

April

4-7 Hashimoto Delegation in Rohnert Park
13-14, 20-21 Cherry Blossom Festival in SF Japantown
27-28 Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival