



## News this Issue...

- ❖ Follow the Consulate Facebook page!
- ❖ Berkeley Student Digital Photo Exchange
- ❖ South SF Beginners Japanese Class
- ❖ Sausalito Student Exchange Fundraisers
- ❖ Palo Alto Runner to Compete in Tsuchiura
- ❖ Sunnyvale Kickstarts Student Exchange
- ❖ OFSCA Annual Holiday Party
- ❖ Watsonville Flapjack Pancake Fundraiser

### Sister City Information from the Consulate

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

## News from the Consulate

### Find us on Facebook!

Have you visited our Consulate page on Facebook?

In order to provide our friends (like you!) in Japanese community with up-to-date, noteworthy information, we've started a Facebook page to supplement our official website. Not only do we post announcements and reports about past events from the Consulate, but we also share Japan-related news, upcoming events, and general fun facts and photos!

Get updates from us by liking our page! You can find us by searching Facebook for "Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco," or going to <https://www.facebook.com/cgjsf1>.



## News from the Sister Cities

### Future Events

### Digital Photography Exchange Connects High School Students

By Linda Komendant, Berkeley-Sakai Sister City Association

The Berkeley-Sakai Digital Photography Exchange is now in its fourth year. It was established in 2010 as a way to connect high school students from Berkeley and Sakai. The teachers who manage the exchange believe that art, and the art-making process, is a universal experience and that photography is a great lens for seeing into the worlds in which we live. Through photographs, students can create a shared awareness of what it means to be a teenager in the two sister cities. The combination of two modern technologies, digital photographs and the internet, allows us to create a shared experience that transcends the limits of time and space.

In previous years, the students have shared photographs on the themes of light, friendship, and their respective cities. This year's theme is *Faces of the Future, Faces of the Past*. This is a simple project that focuses on the art of the portrait and gives the students a chance to show the power of the face. The exchange will run from mid-January through mid-April. Submissions will be coordinated by the photography teachers of both schools and will be displayed in a virtual gallery on our website (<http://photoexchange.berkeley-sakai.org>). This year the photo exchange will expand the dialog between the two schools by having each student photographer provide a picture of themselves, along with their name, their age, and a message about their hope for the future. In this way we will promote the Berkeley-Sakai Sister City Association ideal of "creating a peaceful world through culture and friendship."

## Future Events



## Studying Japanese to Boost Exchange

By Frank McAuley, South San Francisco Sister City Committee

South San Francisco Sister City Committee is starting their second class in Beginners Japanese on March 27th. We have been cosponsored by the Department of Recreation. Our first semester had 13 students and we expect the second semester to have more. The goal would be multi-fold. This class will help students who have been selected for the student exchange in Kishiwada, Japan. It will help host families communicate with their Japanese students. This class will give a level of confidence and add more understanding as we tour Kishiwada, and see other cultural and historic sites.

## Gearing Up for Summer Student Exchange

By Evelyn Gilbreath, Sausalito-Sakaide Sister City Program Committee  
(Edited for length)

It is all hands on deck as we, in Sausalito, prepare for our 2014 visiting student delegation from Sakaide, Japan, from July 24<sup>th</sup> – August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our Recruitment Committee is seeking 14 host families throughout Marin County. Application forms can be obtained from [egilbreath@comcast.net](mailto:egilbreath@comcast.net). Our Program Committee is planning an exciting 10 day program with the umbrella theme of “The Peoples of Sausalito and the Bay Area”. We are raising funds to support this visit through three main events. On March 29<sup>th</sup>, the “Swing low and Speakeasy” promises to be a fun evening of jazz, swing dance lessons, bootlegged booze, dancing, and shenanigans with prizes for best costume and a raffle. Our annual Full Moon Blossom Festival will be on May 10<sup>th</sup>. In June we raise funds through Sausalito’s Jazz By the Bay.

In February we made a presentation to the Sausalito City Council updating them on our plans for this year’s delegation and our institution of a leadership component aimed at sustaining involvement by alumni and providing them with opportunities for community service. Alumni will be represented on our Operations Council, and hold positions of Program Assistant and Associate Day Captains during the delegation’s visits.

## Palo Alto Chooses Runner to Compete in Tsuchiura

By Zachi Baharav, Neighbors Abroad (Palo Alto)  
(Edited for length; originally published in the “El Chisme”)

My name is Dr. Zachi Baharav, and I will be honored to have the opportunity to represent Palo Alto in the upcoming Tsuchiura Marathon. It is a great way to strengthen the relations between our Sister Cities through sport activities.

On a personal note, I have been to Japan quite a few times in the past, on business and on family travel. I’ve mainly stayed in Tokyo, Kyoto, and Kamakura, with short day visits to other locations. I have never visited Tsuchiura, and am looking forward to seeing the beautiful city during the Cherry-Blossom season.



*Dr. Zachi Baharav is pictured in the center back row, wearing a yellow hat*

## Event Calendar

### March

3/8 San Jose-Okayama Youth Ambassador Trip Orientation  
3/8 Tracy-Memuro Sister City 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner  
3/9 Concord 10,000 Cranes for Japan  
3/9 Sebastopol Students’ Send Off Orientation

### April

4/12-13, 19-20 Northern California Annual Cherry Blossom Festival  
4/26-27 Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival

3/14 Berkeley-Sakai SCA Annual Dinner  
3/15 Welcome Reception for Yotsukaido Students  
3/15 Palo Alto-Tsuchiura Exchange Student Welcome Picnic  
3/29 Sausalito “Swing low and Speakeasy”

4/26 Cupertino Japanese Speech Contest

## Past Events



*Iizuka's Kaho-Higashi students strike a pose with holiday cards from Sunnyvale's Fremont HS*

## Sunnyvale Kickstarts Student Exchange

By Joa Suarez, Sunnyvale Sister City Association

Starting a student exchange program has been a top priority for the recently founded Sunnyvale Sister City Association. As early as next summer, junior high and high school students in Sunnyvale and the Japanese city of Iizuka will participate in a newly initiated student exchange program.

Already, Sunnyvale's Fremont High School students have enjoyed exchanging holiday cards with Iizuka's Kaho-Higashi High School students. Schools currently participating in activities include Fremont High School and Sunnyvale Middle School in Sunnyvale and Kaho-Higashi High School, Futase Junior High School, and Igisu Elementary School in Iizuka.

Sunnyvale Sister City Association hopes to eventually include all schools in Sunnyvale and Iizuka in exchange activities. In February, Sunnyvale hosted a visit from Principal Kajiyama of Igisu Elementary School. During his visit, he met with school and city officials in Sunnyvale to discuss opportunities for future collaboration between schools in the two cities.



*Principal Kajiyama (far right) of Igisu ES visits Sunnyvale*

## OFSCA Annual Holiday Party

By Rachel Peters, Oakland-Fukuoka Sister City Association

On December 20, 2013, the Oakland Fukuoka Sister City Association hosted their annual holiday party at the home of Liane and Eric Scott. Six JET Alums who recently returned to the Bay Area were honored guests at the party. Vice Consul, Kei Hagiwara from the San Francisco Japanese Consulate, his wife, Naomi and distinguished Political Science Professor, Hiroaki Inatsugu from Waseda University in Tokyo also joined in the festivities.

The Oakland Fukuoka Sister City Association is also working on a project to bring Fukuoka artist, Seitaro Muroi, famous and internationally celebrated Hakata Doll Master, to the Bay Area in August 2015.



To help underwrite costs for this, they have several of his treasures for sale, whose pictures are included. If you are interested in purchasing any of these items, please contact Liane Scott - [lianescott@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lianescott@sbcglobal.net) or [510.482.5896](tel:510.482.5896). Prices range from \$75-\$200.

## Flapjack Breakfast Fundraiser

By Robb Mayeda, Kawakami-Watsonville Sister City Association

Kawakami Watsonville Sister City Association held another successful Flapjack Breakfast at the Applebee's in Watsonville. The students sold the breakfast tickets for \$10 and earned \$5 to be used toward their trip. Fifteen families served 250 breakfasts in two hours on Sunday February 23. We are now in the process of purchasing the airfare for the May 7 trip to Kawakami-mura, Nagano-ken. In March, the students will attend weekly Japanese lessons in preparation for their attending Kawakami Junior High School and living with their host families.



## 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.

The deadline is **April 17<sup>th</sup>**. Please direct all submissions to: [katherine.andresen@sr.mofa.go.jp](mailto:katherine.andresen@sr.mofa.go.jp)