



News from the Consulate

J-POP SUMMIT Festival 2014

On July 19th and 20th, the Consulate participated in the J-Pop Summit Festival 2014, which was held in San Francisco Japantown and Union Square. Held in cooperation with NEW PEOPLE and the Japantown Merchants Association, this annual event has become a hub for introducing and celebrating Japanese popular culture in America. This year's attendance was estimated at over 120,000 people, setting a record for this festival.

To learn more about the Consulate at this year's J-POP SUMMIT Festival and see additional photos, please see our website and Facebook page.



SF Japantown during this year's J-POP SUMMIT



The Consulate is now located at 275 Battery St. in SF

The Japanese Consulate Has Moved!

We are now located at the corner of Sacramento and Battery Streets. A map of area around our office is available online: <http://www.sf.us.emb-japan.go.jp/pdf/map.pdf>

Please update your address books with our new mailing address and phone numbers:

**275 Battery St.
Suite 2100
San Francisco, CA 94111
Tel: (415) 780-6000
Fax: (415) 767-4200**

News from the Sister Cities

Past Events

Update from SFOSCA

By Kathleen Kimura, San Francisco-Osaka Sister City Association

The San Francisco-Osaka Sister City Association (SFOSCA) recently held its Annual General Meeting at San Francisco City Hall in the Mayor's Conference Room (June 4). The Consul General and Mrs. Watanabe were honored guests. SFOSCA continues to send two San Francisco high school students to Osaka for a three week home-stay each year. Two of our former student ambassadors were in attendance at our meeting, and one is currently on our board of directors. SFOSCA will be celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2017 so discussions are already underway on ideas for the celebration.

Past Events

Another Successful Trip

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



Watsonville students with their new friends from Kawakami-mura

On May 6, 15 Watsonville students and their 2 chaperones left San Francisco for Tokyo. After loading the nineteen sets of luggage, we went on our four-hour bus trip to Kawakami-mura.

We were all tired, but the students did not seem to have any problem waking up early. At the beautiful Kawakami Junior High School, a student assembly awaited us. There were speeches from the Kawakami students, and the Watsonville contingent introduced themselves in *nihongo*.

The students were then introduced to their school buddies, and it was off to class. At the end of school (6 p.m.), host families arrived in the cafeteria. After more introductions, our students went to their new homes.

Bakersfield Hosts Exhibit By Sumi-e Artists

By Susan Stone, Bakersfield Sister City Project Corp. (Edited for length)

On Tuesday, June 10, retired English teacher Mr. Shosaku Ito and a group of five other amateur sumi-e artists from the Kansai region of Japan arrived in Bakersfield, where they mounted a six-man, one-day exhibit of their art. Both the Bakersfield Sister City Wakayama Committee members who arranged for the show and the general public were awed and astonished by the beauty of these works and the enthusiasm of this group of retired educators and businessmen.

Another treat was a calligraphy demonstration by Mr. Genichi Murai, who wrote the *kanji* characters of an ancient

The next day, Saturday, the students went to Fuji-kyu Amusement Park, home of the highest roller coaster in Japan. Sunday, Mother's Day, we all met at a mountain park, where the moms (with some help from the Watsonville students), barbecued all sorts of meats, vegetables, and soba. Afterwards, the adults were treated to a hot springs experience. The chaperones then went to a restaurant at another golf course. That's correct, this village of 5,000 people has two golf courses!

The Kawakami-mura International Friendship Committee treated us to an expansive dinner. The last course was a regional delicacy, *basashi* (raw horse). Dorothy and I have experienced this before, and after some peer pressure, chaperone, Katie Maleta (E.A. Hall) tried some. No pressure was needed for chaperone, Brett Knupfer (principal at Ohlone Elementary), who ate a whole plate full!

Monday was another school day, which starts at 7 a.m. Dorothy and I met with Mayor Fujihara. He asked us to take good care of his children in September. We returned for a school lunch before boarding a bus for Tokyo. Megumi and Keita from the village office were our guides. Megumi attended college at U.C. Davis, and her *eigo* (English) is excellent. The next day included a short subway train ride to Sky Tree, lots of shopping, and a buffet dinner at the hotel.

The next morning Keita loaded the bus and the students, Ms. Maleta, and Mr. Knupfer left for Narita Airport. The students enjoyed their eye-opening trip and experienced amazing hospitality. They are anxious to see their new friends again when the Kawakami students visit Watsonville on September 5.



Mr. Genichi Murai, giving a calligraphy demonstration

nt Chinese poem, as retired math teacher Mr. Yomisu Katsura sang or intoned the poem. Other members of the group were retired electrical engineers Mr. Masanori Sakanaka and Mr. Masayuki Toshiyasu, and retired banker Mr. Kouichi Maeda.

Preparations for Trip to Toyokawa

By Kritika Sharma & Alysa Sakkas, Cupertino-Toyokawa Sister Cities Committee
(Edited for length)

A meeting, an application, and one interview later, 14 excited students found themselves on a journey as the 2014 Cupertino-Toyokawa Student Exchange Delegation. The road of preparation ahead involved culture classes to help us learn some Japanese language and etiquette, volunteering at the Cherry Blossom Festival, and also preparing a short performance to present in Japan.



Aarushi Shah, Karina Wang, Ronni Ariel and Kritika Sharma work at the soda booth at the Cherry Blossom Festival (photo courtesy of K. Sharma)

With the trip less than two weeks away, we recently received our roommate assignments, as well as information about our host families, and are now eagerly preparing gifts for them! We all are extremely thrilled to go, and can't wait to bring many precious memories back!

Fourteen students (7th and 8th graders from the Cupertino Union School District) and two chaperones were selected to be members of the 2014 delegation that will visit Cupertino's sister city of Toyokawa, Japan. They will travel to Japan in late June, and in September, they will host a student delegation visiting from Toyokawa, Japan. The Cupertino Toyokawa Sister Cities Committee organizes the annual student exchange and Cherry Blossom festival. For more information, visit www.cupertinotoyokawa.org.



Group photo of the delegation (Back row: Sean Emmons (chaperone), Jason Park, Michelle Wei, Katie McLaughlin, Andrea Saavedra, Audrey Shiomoto, Kritika Sharma, Irene McNelis, Mansi Reddy, Heather McCook Emmons (chaperone); Front row: Alina Wan, Karina Wang, Santosh Sivakumar, Naomi Gau, Ronni Ariel, Aarushi Shah) (Photo courtesy of T. Fox)

Mendocino-Miasa-Omachi Exchange

By Chelsea Robinson, Mendocino Sister City Association (Edited for length)

The Mendocino Sister City Association welcomed a delegation from their sister city of Miasa-Omachi on Friday, May 16th. 20 5th and 6th grade students from Miasa Elementary and Middle School were accompanied by ten adults, including group leader Tadashi Hosoi and Miasa Vice Principal Manabu Shiojima. The delegation visited important local sites during the day, including the Mendocino Art Center, the Volunteer Fire Department, Big River Beach, and the Mendocino K-8 School. Watching Miasa and Mendocino students playing together in spite of the language barrier is always a highlight of these visits.



Miasa students at the Volunteer Fire Station



Student describes what she wants to explore in Japan

Student Preparations and Presentations

By Jack Ewbank, Sunnyvale Sister City Association (Edited for length)

In early June before the Sunnyvale Sister City Association's (SSCA) first student exchange participants left for Japan, parents, teachers, students, and staff met with SSCA President Mark Kato at Sunnyvale Middle School for a final overview of their trip. After orientation, the student-participants took to the stage to explain why they wanted to go to Japan. Their presentations were recorded and sent to Japan as self-introductions. Recurring themes throughout included interest in Japanese media and culture as well as Japanese foods, from sushi to teriyaki and tempura.

Past Events

News from the OFSCA

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



Sid with his host siblings in Fukuoka

The Oakland Fukuoka Sister City's Annual Spring High School exchange continued on March 20, 2014 with the arrival of Nanoko Watanabe. Nanoko stayed with the Mason family of Oakland whose twin daughters attend the College Preparatory High School. During her visit to Oakland, Nanoko attended classes at College Prep (including assisting in the school's Japanese classes), and visited the Oakland Museum of California.

On April 7th, College Prep sophomore Sid Thakur flew to Fukuoka for 10 days. He stayed with a generous host family, attended classes at a local high school, and visited both modern and historic sites in and around Fukuoka City. This was the 7th year of the OFSCA's Spring High School exchange and we are grateful to ANA and the College Preparatory High School for their ongoing support of this program.

On Sunday, April 11, 2014, the Oakland Fukuoka Sister City Association dedicated a cherry tree at the Torii Gate site in the Gardens at Lake Merritt in memory of long-standing member, Toshiye Amy Shimada.



Sunnyvale students and their new friends in Iizuka

Youth Ambassadors Visit Wakayama

By Susan Stone, Bakersfield Sister City Project Corp. (Edited for length)

A group of 11 junior high and high school students from Bakersfield returned Saturday, June 14th from a 10-day visit to Bakersfield's Sister City of Wakayama, Japan. While in Wakayama, the Youth Ambassadors and their adult chaperones stayed with local families and visited elementary and junior high schools. The group leader was Mrs. Deborah Verdugo-Williams, the Bakersfield-Wakayama Committee chair. The group also had the opportunity to visit local cultural sites, including Wakayama Castle and Mt. Koya, the headquarters of the Shingon sect of Japanese Buddhism and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



With the kindergarten class

At the party, the Bakersfield students and adults entertained their hosts with a slide show, and piano, guitar, and dance performances. The evening ended with a Wakayama tradition: silly games, in which all the attendees formed teams and competed.

Like previous years, the visit ended with tearful farewells on departure, but everyone left with memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. The students will have the opportunity to return their hosts' hospitality in August, when a group of 18 Wakayama students will visit Bakersfield for the 24th Annual Wakayama Summer Cultural Study visit.

Sunnyvale Students Experience Japan

By Mark Kato, Sunnyvale Sister City Association (Edited for length)

In June, 11 Sunnyvale students visited Japan. The students stayed with host families in Iizuka for the majority of their visit, and were overwhelmed by the hospitality of their hosts. They were also invited to Taro Aso's house (the current Vice Prime Minister of Japan) and enjoyed a BBQ party in his backyard in Iizuka. Although Mr. Aso was not present, his brother and son were there to welcome the students. The SSCA currently is preparing for the 20 Iizuka students who will visit Sunnyvale in late August.

Future Events

2014 Mizuho-Morgan Hill Student Exchange

By Murv Little, Mizuho Students Exchange (Morgan Hill) (Edited for length)

The 2014 Mizuho Morgan Hill Student Exchange program, under the umbrella of the Morgan Hill Community Foundation (MHCF), will organize and implement the plan for this year's visit to Mizuho-machi, Tokyo. From July 9-19, 2014, the students will visit Mizuho-machi. July is a good month since Japanese schools do not start the summer vacation until the third week of July and the Morgan Hill students will have the opportunity to actually participate in Japanese classroom activities. The students and chaperones will home-stay with host families in Mizuho. They will also follow their host family's student to class and participate in other activities. They will take some side trips to various places in Japan.

Hercules-Tsushima Sister City Relationship

By Lynn Fissell, Hercules Sister City Association

On August 1, 2014, upon their arrival from Japan, the eleven members of the Tsushima Friendship Delegation will spend a brief time in Yosemite on a tour that they have arranged on their own. Then they will arrive in Hercules for a four-day stay with host families. Their Hercules hosts are planning several events that will provide them with hospitality, good food, sightseeing, and friendship. Some members of the Hercules Friendship Delegation that have already been selected for a trip to Japan in 2015 will be able to be reacquainted with these Tsushima visitors when they see them in Tsushima in July for a home-stay experience that will include witnessing the Owari Tsushima Tenno Festival.

SCSCA Updates

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

The Santa Clara Sister Cities Association (SCSCA) will be participating in the upcoming Sister Cities International Conference in San Jose from July 31-August 2. Four of our Youth Commission delegates will also be attending the Youth Leadership Summit. The current president of the SCSCA Youth Commission, AJ Chahal, is running for Sister Cities Board of Directors Youth Representative.

One of our Youth Commission students, Katie Knowles, left for Izumo, Japan on June 9 along with her chaperone, Erin Ulrich. They spent about 10 days there and had a blast visiting with the Izumo exchange students who came to Santa Clara in March.

The upcoming months are the busiest for SCSCA as they are our fundraising months. SCSCA will be selling wine and beer at the Santa Clara Street Dance on August 1, selling Portuguese sandwiches at the Santa Clara Art & Wine Festival from September 13-14, and finally, hold the annual BBQ on October 5.

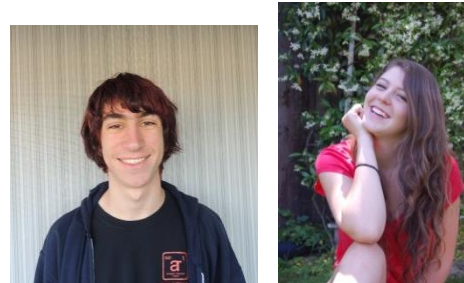


Chaperone Erin Ulrich tries on a kimono while visiting Izumo

SMTSCA Ambassador Exchange

By David Lim, San Mateo City Council (Edited for length)

San Mateo Sister City Association (SMSCA) selected Guy Geva, 17, a senior at Aragon High School, and Claire McNally, 20, sophomore at Whittier College, as ambassadors to travel to Toyonaka as representatives of San Mateo from July 10-21.



Guy Geva (left) and Claire McNally (right) of San Mateo will travel to Toyonaka in July

From July 30-August 6, Mr. Mitsuki Hidaka and Ms. Mako Nakamura will reciprocate with a visit to San Mateo as ambassadors from Toyonaka. They will home-stay with Claire, Guy, and last year's San Mateo Ambassadors, Sharon Borden and Cameron Hill.

In April, Patrice Olds, City Clerk of San Mateo, along with representatives from San Mateo elementary schools, traveled to Toyonaka to deliver gifts commemorating last year's 50th anniversary of the San Mateo-Toyonaka relationship and establish new relationships with elementary schools in the two cities.

Future Events

Japan Summerfest 2014 Fundraiser

By Kelley Cortright, Fairfield-Nirasaki Sister City Program

The Fairfield-Nirasaki Sister City Program will hold its 2nd Annual "Japan Summerfest" fundraising event on Saturday, August 16. It will run from 11:00 AM to 2:00 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 Texas Roadhouse. Performers include local *taiko* drumming groups, as well as traditional and Okinawan dance groups from the Bay Area. Children and families can do origami and calligraphy, and learn about many other aspects of traditional Japanese culture, such as ikebana and bonsai, at our numerous activity and game tables. There will also be a raffle of local and Japanese goods.

At the 1st Annual "Japan Summerfest" fundraising event held last year, the Fairfield-Nirasaki Sister City Program welcomed over 100 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 27 year-old tradition of winter and summer student exchanges between Fairfield and Nirasaki.

Please contact Event Chair Kelley Cortright at fairfieldsistercity@gmail.com for more information.

Event Calendar

July

- 7/4 Independence Day
- 7/9-19 Mizuho-Morgan Hill Student Exchange Program
- 7/10-21 San Mateo Ambassadors in Toyonaka
- 7/24 Sakaide Students Visit the Consulate
- 7/30 Shimonoseki Students Visit the Consulate
- 7/30-8/6 Toyonaka Ambassadors in San Mateo
- 7/31-8/2 Sister Cities International Annual Conference

August

- 8/1 Tsushima Delegation Visits Hercules
- 8/1 SCSCA Fundraiser at Santa Clara Street Dance
- 8/7 Kurume Students Visit the Consulate
- 8/13 Nanao Students Visit the Consulate
- 8/16 2nd Japan Summerfest Fundraiser in Fairfield

Sister City Information from the Consulate

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



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 is **August 15th**. Please direct all submissions to:

kevin.odonnell@sr.mofa.go.jp