



Northern and Central California Sister Cities Newsletter



The Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco

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News from the Consulate

2nd Sister City Workshop & Luncheon

On September 27th, 20 representatives from 17 sister city organizations in Northern and Central California attended the second Sister City Workshop and Luncheon at the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco. The highlight of the workshop was a presentation by Mr. Rod McLeod, who discussed how to successfully utilize social media in promoting sister city activities.

After the presentation, attendees split into smaller groups to discuss issues such as student exchange programs, fundraising, and community outreach. During these discussions, participants were able to trade ideas with each other on how to further develop and expand their sister city activities.

You can find more information and pictures from the event on our website and Facebook page.



News from the Sister Cities

Past Events

Otsukimi (Moon-Viewing Festival)

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

On October 13th, the Oakland-Fukuoka Sister City Association partnered with the Golden State Bonsai Collection North to host the 47th Annual Otsukimi (moon-viewing festival).



OFSCA members, Vice Consul Kei Hagiwara, and the community at large gathered for an evening filled with Japanese cultural performances, such as a tea ceremony performance and a kendo demonstration. Students who participated in the Pacific Children's Convention and High School Exchange Program performed two musical numbers.

The Eastbay Astronomical Society was also present with their telescopes and pointed out star clusters, nebulas, and of course, the moon.

Other Past Events

SJSU-Kyushu U. Student Exchange

By Dana Arbaugh, Milpitas Sister Cities Commission

We hosted Yuki and Natsumi from Fukuoka, Japan for 25 days here in our Milpitas home. They are sophomores from Kyushu University in Japan, and were studying English at San Jose State with 43 other exchange students. The two were sponsored by Dr. Masato Matsuo, Director of the Kyushu California and International Gateway program of SJSU.



Teacher from Shimizu, Shizuoka Learns about US Education in Stockton

By Aeko Yoshikawa, Stockton Sister Cities Association (Edited for length)

Mr. Akihiro Mochizuki is the 2013 exchange teacher from Shimizu, Shizuoka. During his month long visit, he will work in schools at the elementary through high school levels. When asked about his experience so far, Mr. Mochizuki says, "I was very impressed with the American use of technology. The teachers use e-mail to quickly transfer information and presentations from room to room." He also commented that "students often raise hands and ask questions. This is not the case in Japan. I am impressed to see students here ask questions without any prompt."

Mr. Mochizuki will be staying with two families. Kathleen Keeling, his current host, says she enjoys the chance to show off the US and Stockton in a positive light.

Future Events

Sister City Friendship Dinner & Celebration

By Valeria Churma, Sebastopol World Friends (Edited for length)

Sebastopol World Friends (SWF) will hold a Sister City Friendship Dinner and Celebration on Saturday, November 16 from 6:00 pm-9:00 pm. It will be held at the Sebastopol Community Center.

Over the years, SWF's activities have expanded as a result of strong support from the community and partnerships with various organizations. In 2011, SWF was awarded exchange funding by the Japan Foundation's Center for Global Partnership through Sister Cities International. With this funding, it developed a new program with Takeo, Japan, focusing on sustainable development.

SWF Chairperson Valeria Churma remarks that this dinner is "not only a fundraiser, but also a community forum for the Sebastopol citizens to learn more about our organization and our sister cities. You don't even have to leave town to help build world peace, one friend at a time."

Event Calendar

November

- 3 Takko Junior High School Sayonara Party
- 3 Yuba-Toride 25th Anniversary Celebration
- 16 Sebastopol Sister City Friendship Dinner

December

- 8 Santa Clara Annual Holiday Potluck

Santa Clara Sister Cities Annual Holiday Potluck

By Kathy Watanabe, Santa Clara Sister Cities Association

Santa Clara Sister Cities will be holding their annual Holiday Potluck on Sunday, December 8, 2013 from 5:00-7:00 pm at the Santa Clara Senior Center. The Senior Center is located at 1303 Fremont Street, Santa Clara. Everyone is invited to bring an entree, side dish, appetizer, or dessert. There will be raffle baskets for those feeling lucky. It is an opportunity to see friends before the holiday festivities kick into high gear. Come one, come all!



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 **December 13th**.

Please direct all submissions to:

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