



The Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco

July/August 2013, Issue 4

## News this Issue...

- ❖ J-Pop Summit Festival & Japan Expo
- ❖ Oakland/Fukuoka Exchange
- ❖ Rio Vista/Tobishima Exchange
- ❖ Cupertino/Toyokawa Exchange
- ❖ Lodi/Kofu Exchange
- ❖ Watsonville/Kawakami Exchange
- ❖ Santa Clara/Izumo Exchange
- ❖ Bakersfield/Wakayama Exchange
- ❖ Bakersfield Sister City Gardens
- ❖ Sausalito/Sakaide Exchange
- ❖ Modesto/Kurume Exchange
- ❖ Gilroy/Takko 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- ❖ Tracy/Memuro Exchange

## News from the Consulate

### J-Pop Summit Festival, Japan Expo, and More!

Summer is the prime season for student exchanges, and we're sure that many of our sister city organizations are very busy now. We at the Consulate are also busy preparing for some exciting events this summer that we'd like to share with you.

First, we'd like to introduce the 5<sup>th</sup> J-Pop Summit Festival. This event will be held July 27-28 in San Francisco's Japantown. As their website says, it "is a pop culture-themed street fair...[in] Japantown, San Francisco. In 2012, the festival had 65,000 in attendance in two days!" More information can be found here: <http://www.j-pop.com/2013/>

Second, we will also be assisting the Japan Expo in Santa Clara on August 23-25. They write on their Facebook page: "Debuting in the United States in 2013, Japan Expo has a tradition of spreading the appreciation of Japanese culture around the world! With a focus encompassing all aspects of Japan, we're sure you'll find something to enjoy at Japan Expo!" More information can be found here: <http://www.japan-expo.org/>

Also, please stay tuned for information about our second Sister City Workshop! The event is currently being scheduled, but will most likely be held in September or October.

We hope to see you at all these great events!

# J POP SUMMIT FESTIVAL



## News from the Sister Cities

### Future Events

#### Toyokawa Adult Delegation in Cupertino

Cupertino is welcoming an adult delegation from Toyokawa in July. The group has 22 members, including Toyokawa's mayor and city dignitaries, and they will be in California from July 9<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup>. Here are some highlights from their planned itinerary:

- Visit to Apple offices
- Square dancing and BBQ at Blackberry Farm
- First responder training with the Santa Clara Sheriff
- Tour of Japanese American Museum of San Jose and San Jose Japantown
- Tour of Alcatraz
- Shopping at an American Costco
- Dinner with the Mayor of Cupertino

#### Santa Clara Sister Cities Association Exchange

By AJ Chahal, Youth Commissioner SCSCA

This summer, two students of Santa Clara have the honor to travel to Japan through the Santa Clara Sister Cities program. AJ and Allison, students at Santa Clara High School, will leave on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 for Izumo, Japan. On their trip, they will stay with their host families, Yui Sano and Chisato Kasuga, and learn about traditional and modern Japanese culture. They both are very excited for the trip and hope to experience a new and unique foreign lifestyle. They will be back in the U.S. on July 12, 2013. Upon arrival, AJ and Allison will make a presentation about their trip at City Hall. Raj Chahal, the VP of SCSCA will also accompany the students on the visit. The Santa Clara Sister Cities Association is excited for this promising trip to Japan.

## **Sausalito Sends a Delegation of 16 to Sakaide**

By Dina Hatchuel, Sausalito Sister Cities, Inc.

The Cities of Sausalito and Sakaide, Japan are celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> Sister City Anniversary this year. On July 26, a delegation made up of 7 students aged 15-17 years, along with the Sausalito Mayor and former Mayor and his wife, the President of Sausalito Sister Cities Inc, and chaperones 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 the host city of Sakaide. The students will observe the operations of the City Council, attend Rotary lunches, give speeches, and participate in the annual Taiko Dai and Dance Festival and many other activities. Mayor Hiroshi Aya has invited the delegation to a commemorative ceremony on July 28<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the strong relationship between the cities.

## **Oakland – Fukuoka Exchange Activities**

By Oakland Fukuoka Sister City Association

Student ambassadors from the Oakland Fukuoka Sister City Association participated in the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Northern California Cherry Blossom parade on April 21, 2013. Four Oakland fifth graders, eight high school students and their respective chaperones will be traveling to Fukuoka, Japan this summer on two separate exchanges. While there, the students will be staying in Japanese homes and participating in many cultural activities such as calligraphy, tea ceremony, Hakata doll making, dressing up in kimonos, visiting local schools and sightseeing. The fifth graders are participating in the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Asian Pacific Children's Convention (July 12-24) and the high school students in the 43<sup>rd</sup> annual high school exchange (June 27-July 8) between the two cities.

## **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lodi and Kofu Relations**

By Bill Hinkle, Lodi Sister City Committee President

On October 15<sup>th</sup> thru October 25<sup>th</sup>, thirteen members of the City of Lodi Sister City Committee will celebrate its 50th anniversary with officials and members of the City of Kofu, Japan. The trip includes activities in Tokyo, Kofu, and sightseeing excursions in Kyoto. Kofu activities include participating in the Festival "Kofu Daisuki Matsuri" and celebrating Kofu's new city hall building. The October trip to Kofu represents a reciprocal visit by Lodi as a result of a visit by the City of Kofu officials in August of 2011, in which the City of Lodi hosted several events including a performance by the Band of the Golden West from Travis Air Force Base together with the Yamanashi International Exchange Band from the Kofu area.

## **Wakayama-Bakersfield Sister Cities: Building Bridges to the Future**

By Bakersfield-Wakayama Sister City Committee

Since 1988, Bakersfield's sister city of Wakayama, Japan has been sending junior high and high school students to Bakersfield as part of their Summer Youth Cultural Study Program. This year 24 Wakayama students will visit Bakersfield from August 2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>. They will be accompanied by Mr. Hideaki "Henry" Hayashi and Mr. Hideki Iwahashi.

After their visit to Bakersfield, the students will tour California tourist spots in Los Angeles before returning to Japan. But their "study" does not end there, for each is required to write an essay about his/her experiences, and these essays will be bound together in an annual book called "My Friends".

## **Modesto Students to Visit Kurume**

By Nancy Holmes, Kurume Japan Committee Vice President

Modesto Sister Cities is excited to announce that we will be sending five Modesto area students to our sister city in Kurume, Japan for an 11-day visit from July 18-30. We will receive ten Kurume students from Aug 2-13. During the exchange the group will visit San Francisco, Yosemite and other local areas of interest. In 2012, we celebrated 20 years of friendship with Kurume by sending a nine member delegation to Japan for eight days. Included in the delegation was Modesto Mayor, Garrad Marsh.



## Tracy's 2013 Student Ambassadors

By Carol Minner, Tracy Sister City Association President



After six months of planning, fundraising and Japanese culture classes, ten Tracy youth ambassadors and two chaperones departed SFO on June 12<sup>th</sup> for Memuro on the island of Hokkaido. The students and chaperones stayed with Memuro families during their week-long stay. While in Memuro, the students and chaperones visited schools, attended a tea ceremony, and met Mayor Miyanishi. The students continued the tradition of performing a song and dance for their hosts families and city officials during the sayonara party on their last evening in Memuro.

Upon their return, students will share their Memuro memories and photos at a get-together with their families and board members.

The city of Tracy and Memuro town have coordinated youth exchange programs since 1997. In March, Tracy families welcomed Memuro students into their homes.



## Rio Vista Students Return from Japan

By Gary Spear, Rio Vista Sister Cities Association

Eight Riverview School students have returned from an unforgettable trip to Japan. They were very busy during the nine-day trip in June, visiting Kyoto and our sister city Tobishima, where they attended school and lived with host families.

In August, students from Tobishima will stay with host families in Rio Vista as part of their week-long trip to California.





### Watsonville to Kawakami 2013 Middle School Exchange Trip

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

We had a successful trip to our sister city, Kawakami-mura in Nagano Prefecture. This was the 21<sup>st</sup> annual exchange between Kawakami Junior High School and Watsonville middle schools. The group of 12 students and 5 chaperones were in Japan from May 8 - 15. The group stayed the first night at a golf resort hotel, then did homestays with residents of Kawakami for several days. They spent the last two days in the Tokyo area. While in Japan, they visited local schools, attended classes, gave speeches, and planted cherry trees. They also went to Fuji-Kyu Highland amusement park, had BBQ at a campground and went shopping in Tokyo. By the end of the trip, the students were tired, but thankful for the experience and grateful for the hospitality.

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### Fun Facts

#### Bakersfield Sister City Gardens

By Bakersfield-Wakayama Sister City Committee

On August 22, 2012, the grand opening ceremony for phase A of the Sister City Gardens at Mill Creek was held. The first phase of the Sister City Gardens is located at Mill Creek, 525 18th Street, on 0.438 acres, showcasing the Asian Sister Cities with a fountain, a pavilion, and gardens representing Wakayama, Japan; Bucheon, South Korea; and Cixi, China.



Since this opening, the Bakersfield-Wakayama Sister City Committee has been working with its counterpart in Wakayama to select and purchase a centerpiece for the Wakayama Garden. This summer, their selection—a hand-crafted Kasuga-style stone lantern—will be installed. A dedication ceremony is being planned, which the Honorable Kenichi Ohashi, Mayor of Wakayama, and Dr. Nobutada Iwahashi, long-time chairman of the Wakayama Sister City Affiliation Committee will be invited to attend.

## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Takko and Gilroy Sister Cities Founding

By Hugh Smith, Gilroy Sister Cities Association President

The cities of Takko-Machi, Japan, and Gilroy, CA, USA, came together in 1988 to form a sister city relationship after careful and mutual appreciation of each other's common values and local traditions. Takko-Machi and Gilroy are both small, rural towns where garlic agriculture is a major local industry. The two cities have annual visitor exchanges at the Gilroy Garlic Festival and Takko-Machi's Garlic and Beef Festival. In addition, students from Takko-Machi junior high and senior high schools come annually to Gilroy for school visits, cultural exchanges and host family stays, and Gilroy has recently begun a program of sending one high school group a year to Takko-Machi. Over the 25 years, more than 900 visitors from Takko have stayed with nearly 400 Gilroy host families, and Gilroy has sent over 400 visitors to stay with 180 Takko-Machi families. Through a common background primarily in the production of garlic, the two cities have enjoyed a lasting friendship and continue a tradition of outstanding international cooperation.

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### Event Calendar & Information

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#### Summer Exchange Calendar

June 10 - 22	San Jose to Okayama
June 12 - 19	Tracy to Memuro
June 27 - July 8	Oakland to Fukuoka
July 1 - 12	Santa Clara to Izumo
July 2 - 15	San Carlos to Omura
	Omura to San Carlos
July 9 - 15	Toyokawa to Cupertino
July 9 - 29	Fairfield to Nirasaki
July 12 - 24	Oakland to Fukuoka
July 18 - 30	Modesto to Kurume
July 20 - 29	Hayward to Funabashi
July 22 - 28	Takko to Gilroy
July 24 - Aug 6	Hercules to Tsushima
July 26 - Aug 7	Sausalito to Sakaide
July 31 - Aug 6	Shimonoseki to Pittsburg
Aug 2 - 13	Kurume to Modesto
Aug 7 - 11	Akashi to Vallejo
Aug 8 - 21	Nanao to Monterey
Aug 14 - 29	Funabashi to Hayward

#### 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. The deadline for the September/October issue is **August 20<sup>th</sup>**. Please direct all submissions to:

[katherine.andresen@sr.mofa.go.jp](mailto:katherine.andresen@sr.mofa.go.jp)