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**Sister City Information from the Consulate**

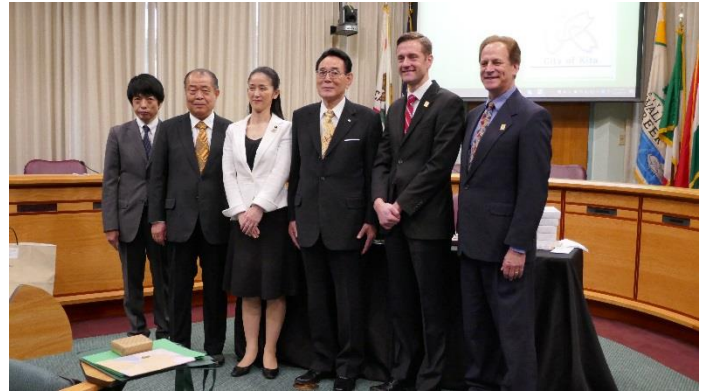
- ❖ [Sister City List](#)
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## News from the Consulate

### Walnut Creek Makes 104

Belated the news may be in making its way into this newsletter, in August 2016, the City of Santa Monica signed a friendship city agreement with its long-standing school exchange partner of Kizugawa in Japan. This made 103 sister/friendship city relationships between California and Japan.

In much the same fashion, on April 30 of this year, the City of Walnut Creek signed a partner city agreement with Tokyo's Kita Ward, with whom they have had a student exchange program for 18 years. Kita Ward Mayor Yosota Hanagawa and Ward Council Chairwoman Kanako Yamada led the delegation to Walnut Creek, where they held a signing ceremony at City Hall with Mayor Pro Tempore Justin Wedel, City Councilmember Kevin Wilk, and other dignitaries from the community. There are now 104 California-Japan sister/friendship city relationships!



*Kita Ward delegation posing with Mayor Pro Tem Wedel and Councilmember Wilk*

## News from the Sister Cities

### Sunnyvale-lizuka

#### A Perfect Day for a Picnic

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

Blue skies after a week of clouds and rain. What a miracle! On Saturday March 25, the Sunnyvale Sister City Association held their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual HANAMI at Braly Park, the site of more than 20 lizuka-donated cherry blossom trees. This year 40 people attended the potluck, which took place under the fully bloomed trees. Though still young, each tree carried many blossoms, and I look forward to seeing how they grow between now and next year's event!



*Guests and volunteers share food under the cherry blossoms at Braly Park on March 25*

## Nirasaki Students Visit Fairfield

By Arletta Cortright, Chair, Fairfield-Nirasaki Sister City Program  
(Edited for length)



*Students enjoying their tour of the main fire station in Fairfield*

In December, Fairfield welcomed the 2016 student delegation from the City of Nirasaki. The six girls and their chaperone enjoyed three weeks of life in California, from activities with their host families, to excursions around the Bay Area, and a three-night trip to Monterey. The group attended a performance of the "Nutcracker" in San Francisco, toured the State Capitol, and got to see jelly beans being made at Fairfield's Jelly Belly factory. Fairfield's summer exchange group of high school students has been selected, and they are busy getting prepared for their three-week visit to Nirasaki in July. Fairfield and Nirasaki are celebrating 46 years together as sister cities in 2017.

*Livermore-Yotsukaido*

## LYSCO Update

By Keith Jess, President, Livermore/Yotsukaido Sister City Organization  
(Edited for length)

The Livermore/Yotsukaido Sister City Organization hosted their annual incoming visit from the Yotsukaido in mid-March. While here the students and chaperones stayed with host families in Livermore, went to school for three days with their host student, and enjoyed a trip to San Francisco. The chaperones retreated to shopping and wine tasting around Livermore. Everyone had a really good time.



*Yotsukaido delegation being welcomed at the airport with a sign*

## Millbrae Middle School Students to Visit Hanyu

By Kathleen Kimura, Commissioner, Millbrae Sister Cities Commission  
(Edited for length)

Ten Taylor Middle School students from Millbrae will depart for Hanyu on July 5 for a six-day homestay. This is the first middle school student exchange between Millbrae and Japan and all are looking forward to students from Hanyu visiting Millbrae sometime next year. Joining the delegation will be former mayor and current Councilwoman Anne Oliva, former mayor Robert Gottschalk, and Millbrae Sister Cities Commissioner Kathleen Kimura. The Millbrae Sister Cities Commission has appreciated the great support and assistance it has received from the Millbrae Rotary Club and Taylor Middle School Principal Mr. Phil Hophan in making this trip happen.

## Call for Submissions



Have a story 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 for the next issue is **May 30**. Please direct all submissions to: [kevin.odonnell@sr.mofa.go.jp](mailto:kevin.odonnell@sr.mofa.go.jp) in Word document format as an attachment. Pictures can be either pasted in the Word document or attached separately.

## Event Calendar

### March

- 3/4-5 Sunnyvale-lizuka robot programming class
- 3/10 Berkeley-Sakai Sister City Association Annual Meeting
- 3/18 Livermore-Yotsukaido 40<sup>th</sup> Sister City Anniversary Celebration
- 3/25 Gilroy Sister Cities Association Annual International Dinner
- 3/26 Sebastopol welcome party for Takeo students

### April

- 4/2 Santa Clara Sister Cities Association potluck/farewell for Izumo delegation
- 4/19-22 Berkeley-Sakai 50<sup>th</sup> sister city anniversary events
- 4/21-25 San Jose-Okayama 60<sup>th</sup> sister city anniversary events
- 4/25 Walnut Creek-Kita Ward partner city agreement signing ceremony
- 4/29-30 Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival

### May

- 5/18 Modesto-Kurume 25<sup>th</sup> Sister City Anniversary Dinner
- 5/24-28 Sacramento-Matsuyama 35<sup>th</sup> sister city anniversary events

### June

- 6/10 Japanese Cultural Fair in Santa Cruz