

# BERKELEY-SAKAI SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION



Celebrating over 50 years of Friendship



バークレー・堺 50年を超える友好

2018 Annual Meeting & Potluck

Friday, March 9 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Berkeley Methodist United Church  
1710 Carleton Street, Berkeley

Please bring an appetizer, a salad or side dish to serve 6, plus something to drink. Board will supply main course, dessert and beverages.

You are cordially invited to our dinner.

## Welcome to 2018

*You are cordially invited to join or renew your membership in the Berkeley-Sakai Association. The Berkeley-Sakai Association is a non-profit organization, established in 1967, to promote goodwill and friendship between the citizens of Berkeley and our sister city, Sakai, Japan.*

*The Berkeley-Sakai Association has been active and successful in arranging student exchange programs, goodwill visits, school visits and programs, marathon runners, artist exchanges, kindergarten art exchanges, and individual visits and home stays with Sakai since 1967.*

*Our success comes from your support and contributions. Thank you for being a member. Your membership envelope is enclosed.*

*If you would like to receive information about future Berkeley-Sakai Association events, please include your e-mail address or visit us on Facebook or our website at [www.berkeley-sakai.org](http://www.berkeley-sakai.org) Please visit it periodically for we are continuously working on it. Your membership envelope is enclosed. You could also visit our web page to make your membership contribution.*

## **Proposed 2018 Board of Directors (to be voted on at the annual meeting)**

Chair: Gary Gibson

Vice Chair: Don Rising

Treasurer: Maria LaForge

Secretary: Linda Komendant

Auditor: Brad McCullough

Directors: Wanda Bonneville, Bonnie Borucki, Juri Komendant, Atsuko Morse, Roy Nierenberg, Noriko Nishizawa, Cheryl Rego, Steve Rego, Carolyn Rising, Jay Sordean, Sally Stevens, and Barbara Stevens Strauss.

## **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

Last year we celebrated our 50 years of sister city friendship with Sakai. The celebration started with Sakai Mayor Takeyama's visit in April and ended with our Goodwill trip to Sakai City and Japan in October. Our website ([www.berkeley-sakai.org](http://www.berkeley-sakai.org)) has a summary of all the activities that took place during Mayor Takeyama's visit and the anniversary events that followed. The activities were set up by our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, and we are very thankful to all our board members and all the people who helped, participated and donated to our Association. Special thanks goes out to the following people and all of the people who helped them.

Sakai City Delegation: Mayor Osami Takeyama, Mamoru Yoshikawa (Chairperson, Sakai City Council), Koji Nagoshi (Director, International Affairs Department, Culture and Tourism Bureau), Hiromi Tada (Assistant Manager, International Affairs Department, Culture and Tourism Bureau), Takuro Omae (Senior Staff to Mayor), Tatsuhiko Oku (Staff, International Division, Culture and Tourism Bureau), Yasuko Nagai (Staff, International Division, Culture and Tourism Bureau), Takuya Takimoto (Sakai City Council Secretariat), Hisahiko Masaki (Sakai-Berkeley Association), Tsuji-san (President, Osaka Prefecture University),

City of Berkeley: Mayor Jesse Arreguin, Brandi Campbell Wood (Chief of Staff), Jacquelyn McCormick (Senior Advisor), Stefan Elgstrand (Assistant to the Mayor), Paul Buddenhagen (Health, Housing & Community Services), Timothy Burroughs (Resiliency), John Caner (Downtown Berkeley Association), Steve Finacom (Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association)

Japanese Consulate, SF: Consul General Jun Yamada and Vice Consul Satoshi Higo

U.C. Botanical Garden: Director Eric Siegel, Deepa P. Natarajan, Vanessa Handley, Christine Manoux

UCBG Workshops: Jonas Dupuich: Introduction to Bonsai  
Yoshiko Wada: Folk Textiles of Japan  
Jay Van Arsdale: Traditional Japanese Hand Tools and Joinery  
Barbara Stevens-Strauss: Chabana Flower Arranging  
Bernie Peyton: Origami: Where Art Meets Science

U.C. East Asian Library: Dr. Peter Zhou, Deborah Rudolph, Toshie Marra

Berkeley Art Center: Director Ann Trinca and “InFusion” Art Show artists:  
Maki Aizawa, Vicki Chardak, Kevin Harris, Kimiko Kogure, Keiko Nelson, Christina Schneck, Barbara Stevens-Strauss, Tami Wicinas. Special thanks to Barbara Stevens-Strauss for organizing the art show and for her beautiful flower arrangements and to Christina Schneck for allowing us to use one of her designs on our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary t-shirts.

Tea Ceremony: San Francisco’s Urasenke Foundation, Director Christy Bartlett, and Urasenke Foundation assistants

Rockwall Winery: Roger Rosenblum and David Wasley

Takara Sake: Izumi Motai, Marketing Manager, and staff

Musicians: Tatsumaki Taiko and Phil Pickering  
Shirley Muramoto, Brian Mitsuhiro Wong and Murasaki Ensemble  
Hideo Date, guitarist, and Shogo Yamada (Kawachi Ondo)  
Cal Berkeley Marching Band and Director Robert Calonica

Girl Scouts: Andia Rasmussen, Kristen Rasmussen, Jeanne Killian, and all the local girl scouts and Sakai girl scouts who joined our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary BBQ and pool party at the McCullough’s. Thank you Brad, Jen, Claire and Colleen!

Student Exchange: Host families: Steve & Cheryl Rego, Brad & Jennifer McCullough, Midori & Jason Lambert, Katie Sanbongi & David Hirota and Linda & Juri Komendant and Tracy Weber who gave us a guided tour of the UCB campus.

Restaurants: Chez Panisse (Claire Sullivan and staff)

Jupiter  
U.C. Faculty Club  
Hs Lordships (Lisa Tunney, Catering Manager, & head waiter, Ali)  
Musashi Catering  
Blu Chocolates  
Zachary's Pizza

Goodwill Delegation: Victor and Kay Iwamoto, East-West Travel Corp., who arranged a fabulous trip for us, and Delegation Members:  
Mayor Jesse Arreguin, Brandi Campbell Wood, Craig Wood, Stefan Elgstrand, Jacqui Cosgrove, Gary Gibson & Bonnie Borucki, Linda & Juri Komendant, Don & Carolyn Rising, Greg Rising, Sally Stevens, Otis & Teresa Wong, Laura & Todd Dillard, Anita Hayward & Robert Perkins, Jerry & Julie Kline, Henry Hecht, Rudi Widmann & Wanda Bonneville, Cecil Lee, Cindy Chan, & Cenya Alice Lee, Arleta Chang, Merike Phillips, Brad & Jennifer McCullough, Whitney Vosburgh, Steve & Diane Leong

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee: Linda, Brad, Noriko, Jay, Asuko, Barbara, Gary & Juri

### **Goodwill Visit to Japan** by Juri Komendant

What a great trip with wonderful people! We started in Sakai celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our sister city relationship. As always, we were shown a fabulous time. Some of us had home stays, while others stayed at the Hotel Agora Regency Sakai, where a beautiful Welcome Reception was held. We were joined in Sakai by Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin, his Chief of Staff Brandi Campbell Wood, and his Staff Assistant Stefan Elgstrand. We visited the joint art show between Berkeley and Sakai Bridge artists at the Sakai City Museum, followed by a visit to the new Sen-no Rikyu/Yosano Akiko Museum at Sakai Plaza, where we were treated to a delicious lunch. In the evening we visited a solo show by Masaru Oya at the Irohani Gallery, and along the alleyway outside the Irohani, several artists set up a temporary Candle Art Exhibit and served food and had a couple of musicians perform. Sakai is world famous for producing forged knives and is known for their textiles and incense. We visited the Enami Knife Factory and then the Sakai Traditional Crafts Museum. We spent four days in Sakai and the annual Sakai Parade was held on the last day of our visit. Although the weather did not cooperate, our spirits and celebration in Sakai were not dampened.

We are very thankful to all the Sakai-Berkeley Association members, Sakai Mayor Takeyama and Sakai City Government staff, Sakai City Council members, Sakai Bridge artists, the host families and every person who participated in making our stay in Sakai a wonderful and

memorable experience. Many friendships have been formed between Berkeley and Sakai citizens, and we look forward to next time we meet again. Thank you again for your generous hospitality and friendship.

After Sakai, 24 of us continued on a tour of central Japan. We visited Nara, Kyoto, Takayama, Matsumoto, Minakami, Nikko and Tokyo. Our tour was set up by Victor and Kay Iwamoto, who have organized three previous Goodwill Tours. Linda and I chose the cities and onsens we wanted to visit and the length of stay; Victor and Kay did everything else. They arranged for us to have our favorite tour guide, Makiko “Kiko” Kumazawa, and made reservations at wonderful, well located hotels, arranged train and airline transportation, and reserved wonderful restaurants and meals along the way.

Our website has our complete itinerary, names of all the hotels we stayed at, the places we visited and a photo gallery of our trip. There were many highlights along the way and all of the places and onsens we visited are highly recommended.

We would gladly repeat the whole trip itinerary, especially with all the people on our tour. For me, highlights of the trip included visiting the Miho Museum by I. M. Pei (between Nara and Kyoto), walking along the Philosopher’s Walk in Kyoto and stopping at temples and shrines along the way, including Ginkakuji, Eikan-do Zenrin-ji, and Shoren-in temples, and visiting Arashiyama in northwest Kyoto. If you have never seen the Kyoto train station at night, it is a great place to visit and have dinner.

Takayama was a favorite city for everyone. The onsen at the Hotel Associa Takayama Resort is beautiful, the morning market is a great place to shop and walk along the river, and the Hida Folk Village was beautiful with full autumn colors. Between Takayama and Matsumoto, the historic walk along the Edo route at Tsumago/Magome was very interesting (even in the rain) with its quaint little shops and friendly shopkeepers.

The onsen and Japanese style dinner at the Hotel Shoho in Matsumoto were lovely and very enjoyable and visiting Matsumoto Castle is always interesting and fun.

We spent two nights at the Minakami Onsen during a typhoon that passed over Tokyo, watching high winds and rain whipped trees across the river while soaking in the beautiful onsen; a very good time to have a relaxing free day. Some of us wandered out in the rain after the high winds subsided and visited the local park and enjoyed lunch at a local restaurant.

From Matsumoto we went to Tokyo, passing Lake Chuzenji and stopping at Kegon Waterfalls and Nikko along the way. Tokyo has become more and more enjoyable, as we have learned to relax more and venture out on our own. We mostly did our “own thing” in Tokyo but often shared time together at meal times. Our group of four visited Harajuku-Takeshita-dori, walked along Omotesando Boulevard and visited the top of Tokyo’s tallest building, Roppongi Hills

Mori Tower, where we watched the setting sun go down next to Mt. Fuji in the distance. Our hotel, the Grand Nikko Tokyo Daiba, was well located with many shopping areas nearby. A really wonderful trip with really wonderful people.

## **2018 KIX Senshu International Marathon**

With only one exception (1996), our Association has sent a marathon runner to Sakai to participate in the Senshu International Marathon every year since 1994. Sakai extends this invitation each year to all its sister and friendship cities and hosts these guest runners for a week. Berkeley runners have come from all walks of life: City of Berkeley Planner, City Manager, Community Liaison, Senior Management Analyst, and Budget Manager, an architect, a doctor, a social worker, elementary school teachers, UCB students, an employee of Clif Bar, police officers (2009-2012), and since 2013 firefighters/paramedics.

This year's marathon will take place on Sunday, February 18th, and our runner will be hosted by Sakai February 17-22. Tom Bowring, a firefighter and paramedic with the City of Berkeley Fire Department, will represent Berkeley this year. Originally from Australia, he has been with the fire department for two years. He and his wife, Nazarena Sadati, have a great love of travel and really appreciate this opportunity to visit Japan. After their week-long stay in Sakai, they plan to visit other parts of Japan, ending in Tokyo for their flight home.

## **Berkeley Sakai Student Exchange**

This summer our association will send a group of exchange students to Sakai Japan. The group will consist of 5-6 students and 2-3 chaperones. We are currently interviewing students from the Berkeley area. The selected students will visit Sakai, beginning July 25, and then tour on through Kyoto and Tokyo. This will be the second high school trip to Sakai.

The Exchange program started the summer of 2016 when 5 girls and 4 board members visited Sakai. The trip ended with a visit to Kyoto and Hiroshima. While in Hiroshima the group attended the Lantern Ceremony.

Last summer, Sakai sent 5 students and their chaperones to visit Berkeley for 5 days. We began the exchange with a pizza lunch at the Komendant's house. The group itinerary included a visit to San Francisco by ferry boat, a pool party with the Sakai Girl Scout troop and a busy day touring Berkeley. The Sakai guests enjoyed a meeting with the Berkeley mayor, Jesse Arreguin.

We are looking forward to another successful and memorable trip to Sakai this summer.

## **Berkeley-Sakai 2018 Digital Photography Exchange**

The Berkeley-Sakai Digital Photography Exchange (aka Photo Exchange) between high school photography students in Berkeley, California and Sakai, Japan will begin its eighth year in 2018. The Photo Exchange was established in 2010 as a way to use the internet to connect High School students from Berkeley and Sakai. The goal of the Photo Exchange is to promote a cultural dialogue through the photographs taken by the students of the sister cities. The combination of two modern technologies, digital photographs and the internet, allow us to create a shared experience that transcend the limits of time and space.

This has been an exciting project for the participants in the exchange. It has allowed them to gain a more personal look into the lives of fellow high school students in another land.

The timeline is currently being finalized, but the tentative schedule for the exchange is mid-February to early March.

This year's photography theme is: The Portrait.

Everyone involved is very excited to continue the annual photo exchange.

The Photo Exchange website is currently moving from its old site space to its new home under the Berkeley-Sakai domain. While the move is underway, it will not be available for public viewing. However, it will be back soon. Please check the Berkeley-Sakai website at <http://berkeley-sakai.org> for details.

## **Kindergarten Art Exchange**

Pictures drawn and stories told by the kindergarten children in Mrs Libby Trumbull's class are presently hanging in City Hall in Sakai's beautiful city government building. In March the art of children of Sakai's kindergarten classes will be sent to Berkeley where it will be displayed at Thousand Oaks School and at several churches before being returned in May. This exchange has been going on for at least 10 years. The schools and art teachers have changed over the years, but "Miss Libby," as she is called at school, has helped her students participate for four years now. If you want to view this year's drawings, please attend our Berkeley-Sakai Association Annual Meeting.

The attached photos were taken in “Miss Libby’s” classroom, two years ago when art from Japan was shared with her class.

