

Berkeley-Sakai Sister-City Association



February 2013

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2013 Annual Meeting & Pot Luck

Friday March 8 – 6:30 PM

1152 Colusa Ave

(Carolyn & Don Rising's house)

Please bring an appetizer, a salad, or side dish to serve 6; Board will supply main dishes, dessert, and beverages.

Proposed Organization (to be voted on at the annual meeting)

President: Gary Gibson
Vice-president: Don Rising
Treasurer: Maria La Forge
Secretary: Linda Komendant
Auditor: Brad McCullough
Website (berkeley-sakai.org (no www)): Gary
Gibson, Chino Green, Juri Komendant,
Don Rising

Newsletter: Sally Stevens
Senshu Marathon: Linda Komendant
Goodwill Visits: Juri Komendant
Kindergarten Art Program: Carolyn Rising
Student Representative: Celina Borucki-Gibson
Directors: Bonnie Borucki, Vicki Chardak, Roy
Nierenberg, Noriko Nishizawa, Sandy Quong,
Cheryl Rego, Judith Sanderson, Jay Sordean

Welcome to 2013 // Your Board of Directors

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 our website at www.berkeley-sakai.org Please visit it periodically for we are continuously working on it.

If you plan to attend the annual dinner, please bring an appetizer, salad or side dish. Board members will provide main dishes, dessert, and beverages.

Skype Event // Linda Komendant

Berkeley and Sakai held their first Skype event on Saturday, November 17, 2012, at the home of Juri & Linda Komendant. About 22 people attended the event in Berkeley. There were questions/discussion about education, food, and anime. "Sakai International Understanding Seminars are conducted primarily by community groups and volunteer citizens and are joint-sponsored by Sakai City to promote internationalization and international understanding and deepen interaction between citizens and Sakai's international community." The event was organized by Shiro Nagashige in Sakai and Gary Gibson and Juri Komendant in Berkeley. Shiro also hosted two members of our Goodwill Delegation in October. We hope to do this again.

Berkeley-Sakai Student Photography Exchange // Gary Gibson

The Second Annual Berkeley-Sakai Photography exchange took place in May/June 2012, and was a big success. The theme for the 2012 exchange was *friendship*. Students from the Berkeley High School digital arts class and the Sakai High School photography club documented the concept of friendship with photographic portraits and candid shots. There was good participation from both groups.

The Berkeley Sakai Sister City Association provided a safe web space for both groups to upload their digital photographs over the Internet. They were subsequently copied to the new Photo Exchange website by Mr. Gabriel Berent, the digital arts teacher for Berkeley High, who also designed the site. You can still view the 2012 Photography Exchange through the Berkeley-Sakai website at: <http://berkeley-sakai.org> in the Photography Exchange section.

The members of the Berkeley-Sakai Goodwill Visit delegation had the opportunity to meet Mr. Naoto Yoshida (吉田直人), the head teacher of the Sakai photography club. He brought a folder that contained all of the pictures from both the 2011 exchange and the 2012 exchange. We had not been able to get all of the pictures from Japan in the 2011 exchange, so this was a wonderful meeting.

Mr. Yoshida was very enthusiastic about the Photography exchange and hoped that it would continue....and it will: The 2013 exchange will begin in February 2013, and will run through March 2013. The theme for this year will be for the students to document their respective cities: Berkeley and Sakai. The Berkeley students will focus on the people and environments that make up Berkeley, while the Sakai students will focus on people and the environments that make up Sakai City. It will be a great opportunity for both sets of students to learn about the culture and identity of their own cities as well as their Sister Cities.

20th Senshu International City Marathon // Linda Komendant

In recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Senshu International City Marathon, Sakai invited two runners from each of its sister cities instead of just one. Our runners are Alfonso Munoz and Doug Royer. Alfonso works as a Berkeley City firefighter; he and his wife Heather have two children, 9 year old Spencer and 6 year old Mia. Doug is a software engineer, as is his wife Jessica. (Jessica's parents, Jerry and Julie Kline, were participants on the 2012 Goodwill visit to Sakai in October.) Jessica and Doug do not have children yet, but they have an adorable little dog, Juno. The marathon was held on Sunday, February 17, 2013. Our runners were in Sakai from February 15 to February 21. They had 3 days in a hotel and 3 days with a host family and visited many sites in and around Sakai. Alfonso returned home to Berkeley at the end of the week, but Doug and Jessica spent a few days in Kyoto on their own before coming home

The Berkeley-Sakai Website: berkeley-sakai.org (no www) // Juri Komendant

Have you visited our website yet? Gary Gibson has been instrumental in setting it up, and we have a website committee keeping it up-to-date. Information you can view on the website includes current news relevant to events and activities of our organization (**BSA News**). We also have sections on **Goodwill Visits, cultural exchanges, upcoming events, and a Photo Gallery**. Last October, we had a **Goodwill Visit** to Sakai to celebrate 45 years of continuous sister city friendship with the people of Sakai. Don Rising gives a great descriptive view of the trip. Under **Cultural Exchanges**, you can read about our marathon runners, kindergarten art exchange, artist exchange, and photography exchange. You can view photographs by Berkeley High students and high school students of Sakai, and there are links to their photo sites. There is also a link to the Berkeley Artists Bridge Exchange. The **Photo Gallery** is a work in progress and we are collecting and organizing photos of Japan, taken by our members, that may be of interest to anyone to review and enjoy. We hope you visit and enjoy viewing our site. If you have any suggestions, please contact one of our website committee members: Gary Gibson, Don Rising, Chino Green, or Juri Komendant.

Kindergarten Art Exchange // Carolyn Rising

We just mailed 42 paintings created by the kindergarten students of Fennis Brown at Prospect Sierra School for our yearly art exchange. Her students created abstract paintings using India ink with liquid acrylic and oil pastels.

Ms Brown grew up in Berkeley and had a number of friends go to Sakai on the Berkeley-Sakai middle school exchange. She graduated from Bennington College in Vermont in 2011, where she studied fine art. She and her students are looking forward to the arrival of the art created by kindergarten students in Sakai.

This year our art was augmented by pictures by two kindergarten children of former Berkeley-Sakai Student Exchange participants. Jack Herwood is the son of Bill Herwood, BSSE 1985. He drew a combination submarine/rocket ship and can tell you all about stabilizer torpedo tubes, fuel for the future made from smashed salt from seawater, engine rooms, resting rooms, etc. He has obviously visited a submarine. Our second kindergarten artist is Sirkka Egle, one of the twins of Cheryl Cahoon Egle who was a 1991 BSSE participant. Sirkka is a happy girl who loves fancy dresses and life in general. Her twin Alex was unavailable to paint for us. Sirkka also has a curious younger sister named Morgana, who appears in Sirkka's drawing covered in red paint.

If any of our BSSE Alumni read this article and have young children (or grandchildren) who will enter kindergarten in the fall, please let me know. I will include some of their art next year.

Sakai Art Exhibit - October 2012 // Linda Komendant

For the 45th anniversary celebration of the Berkeley-Sakai sister city relationship, 47 artists of the International Artist BRIDGE group from both Berkeley and Sakai exhibited artworks together in three October art exhibits: at the Kyoto Art Museum October 4-8 and the Sakai City Art Museum October 10-15; additional artwork was displayed at the Okuno Seimeido Kan in the Yamanokuchi shopping district in Sakai. 17 artists from the Bay Area participated: Francie Allen, Lorene Anderson, Vicki Chardak, Philip Donahue, Jean Hearst, Irene Imfeld, Lisa Jacobs, Lenore McDonald, Clare Oliveras, Sofie Siegmann, Wendy Stein, Michele Theberge, Whitney Vosburgh, John & Zack Watson, Tracy West, and Victoria Vedell. This was the seventh year of joint exhibitions these two artist groups have had. It was a joyful celebration of the reunion of these international artists with each other and with the Berkeley-Sakai sister city representatives. We hope that this enriching cultural exchange between the two cities will continue for many years.

Cherry Trees - I: Japan-US Cherry Blossom Centennial: A New Gift From Japan to Berkeley // Gary Gibson

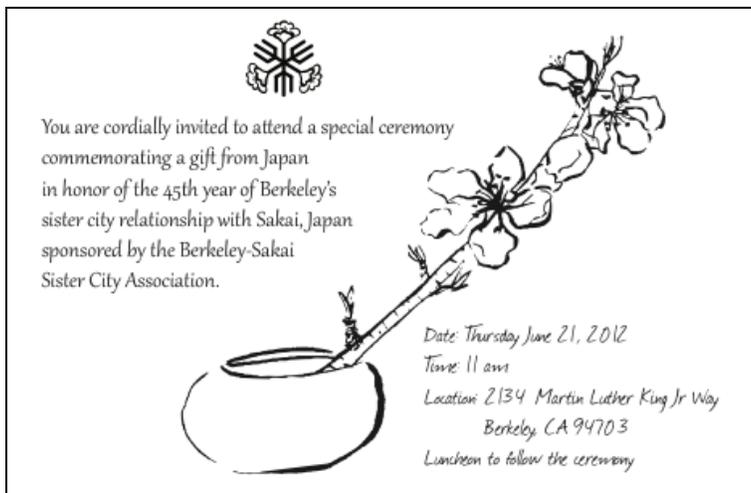
100 years ago, the people of Japan gave 3000 cherry blossom trees to the United States as a goodwill gesture. These trees were planted in the tidal basin area of Washington D.C. during the Taft administration. At the end of 2011 the Japanese Consulate contacted the Berkeley-Sakai Sister City Association to tell us that in 2012, the Japanese government would like to donate a new set of cherry blossom trees to communities around the country that have special symbolic significance for the relationship between the US and Japan, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the original gift. Berkeley is one such place.

2012 was doubly auspicious for Berkeley and Japan, because it also marks the 45th anniversary of their sister city relationship. The country of Japan holds Berkeley in high esteem, and this was a great opportunity to strengthen our bonds with the Japanese people.

The Berkeley-Sakai Sister City Association contacted the Mayor's office to see if the city of Berkeley would be interested in receiving this generous gift. The Mayor's office was very excited about this opportunity, and arranged a meeting between the City Parks Department and the BSA. We met with the superintendent of City Parks, Susan Ferrera, and her staff on May 3, 2012, at which time we completed most of the arrangements. The most important result of this meeting was the selection of an appropriate location for planting the tree.

The location chosen was the northeast corner of the old city hall on Martin Luther King Jr Way near Allston Way (close to the justice building). This puts it very close to the stone lantern that was given to Berkeley by Sakai in 1967 to commemorate the formation of the sister city relationship. There were already two cherry blossom trees growing there, so a third tree would make a complete set.

The tree arrived in Berkeley on May 24, 2012, in good health, and was cared for by Dan Gallagher, Senior Forestry Supervisor of the City of Berkeley Parks Department, until the official planting ceremony on June 21, 2012, attended by Mayor Tom Bates and his staff, Consul General Hiroshi Inomata and his staff (from the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco), City Council members Kriss Worthington and Jesse Arreguin, Susan Ferrera, Dan Gallagher, and Wanda Williams of the City Parks Department, members of the Berkeley-Sakai Sister City Association, and various members of the local community.



The City Parks department provided golden shovels, which the Mayor, the Consul General, and the Chairmen of the BSA used to begin the planting. Everyone who attended had an opportunity to pose with the golden shovels. Pictures are posted on the Berkeley-Sakai website at: <http://berkeley-sakai.org> on the BSA News page.

Juri Komendant arranged to have a plaque made, which the parks department installed next to the tree a few days after the event.

The new cherry blossom tree is thriving to this day alongside its two sisters. It is our fervent hope that the citizens of Berkeley and visitors from Japan will enjoy it for the next 100 years and beyond.

Cherry Trees - II: University of California Cherry Tree Project // Linda Komendant

The California Japanese American Alumni Association organized and prepared plans, sketches, and cost estimates to plant a grove of Japanese cherry trees at the west entrance to UC Berkeley as a tribute to persons of Japanese ancestry who attended UC. The trees were planted last fall in the center planting area of the divided road at the apex into campus. A bronze plaque identifying the legacy will be designed and mounted on a granite boulder located on the east end of the planting median adjacent to a crosswalk. The Berkeley-Sakai Association contributed \$1000 to the UC Berkeley Fund for this project

Japan Friendship Tour 2012, October 1-16 // Don Rising

The group of 18 was led by Juri and Linda. Juri's sister, Merike Phillips, came from Wisconsin with two friends, Kathleen Brand and JoAnn Muhlenbeck. There were two families of 3, Gary Gibson and Bonnie with daughter Celina and Don and Carolyn with son Greg. Some long time members Judith Sanderson, and Steve and Diane Leong, and Berkeleyans Jerry Kline and Julie Florin Kline. We had a couple from Fair Oaks, CA, Wayne and Yukari Ray. We had a great time hearing

each other's stories, enjoying Japanese food and hot springs, seeing the traditional sights of Japan in lovely fall weather, and then being treated royally by our friends in Sakai at the end of the trip.

Days 1 & 2 Monday-Tuesday SFO Narita Haneda Airport Tokyo Kagoshima October 1 and 2 The plane left at 12:30 pm and arrived 11 hours later at 3:25 pm on Tuesday in Narita, after crossing the dateline. There had been a typhoon with flooding a couple of days before, but there was no evidence of it now, except that the weather was unseasonably warm for October. We got our luggage, and had no problem with customs. From the airport we thankfully shipped a heavy hard case Samsonite carryon with 2 others that Linda was shipping to the Hotel Royal Rihga in Sakai. (We had taken some heavy textbooks for an English school that Yoshiyasu Morii was setting up.) Then 49 miles to the other side of Tokyo to the Haneda airport on Tokyo Bay by a group shuttle, a trip that was quick for rush hour traffic, and from there we took a new Boeing 787 Dreamliner to Kagoshima Airport on a flight of 580 miles at 40,000 feet. It seemed smooth, roomy, and fast, and we had none of the problems that have been recently reported. We arrived in Kagoshima in the southwest of Japan on the island of Kyushu, about an hour by bus from the Castle Park Hotel, and we got to bed about 10:00 pm local time or 6:00 AM PST.

Day 3, Wednesday Kagoshima In the morning we had a great view of the sun rising beyond the city and across the bay, behind an ominous smoking volcano: Mount Sakurajima. 'Sakurajima' means *cherry tree island*, but there are no cherry trees there, and in fact it is no longer an island since a big 1914 eruption connected it to the land on the far side of the bay from where we were. There are 3 different stories of how it got the name. [If you want to know them, you'll have to ask Don.] The kanji for 'Kagoshima' means *Fawn Island*, but the real source is a name with a similar sound in an old language or dialect. The rooms were nice but a little tight in the Castle Park Hotel, as we were carrying what we needed for 16 days, and were told not to count on there being laundry facilities. It is Castle *Mountain* Hotel in Japanese, a more accurate name, as it is on a steep bluff. After breakfast Greg and I hiked down the mountain, about 300 feet elevation on steep steps under a heavy canopy and next to water running down from the natural hot spring. Lots of small dragonflies, butterflies, and birds. A bit warm and humid; we sweated coming up the hill. We stopped to watch a lizard with smooth skin eat a huge earthworm with difficulty. At 1:00 pm we took off for the headquarters of the old Shimatzu clan of Samurai, and saw the historical sights there. Satsuma was the name of their large fief, the former name of the prefecture and the name of the peninsula.

Day 4 Thursday Kagoshima Chiran Nagasakibana Ibusuki Onsen This morning we drove further southwest and saw Kyushu's Mt. Fuji, "Satsuma Fuji." Fields of tea and sweet potatoes. Saw the Samurai village in Chiran with streets with offsets for protection against enemy invasion. The houses were pretty with well kept gardens, still owned by descendants of the samurai. We visited the Chiran Peace Museum for Kamikaze Pilots. I found it very interesting because of the airplanes they had there for close inspection. I was surprised by the number of types of aircraft used, and I had not known that there were also Kamikaze boats. Yukari Ray's brother joined the Kamikaze and was minutes away from going out on his mission when the war was declared over. After lunch we travelled to the southern tip of Satsuma peninsula to Nagasakibana (*long triangular cape*), and we ventured out to the point of rocky volcanic land with tidepools. The Onsen (hot springs) is perhaps 6 miles NE on Kagoshima Bay at the narrow inlet. The Ibusuki Iwasaki Hotel features hot sand baths, and was spectacular in architecture with a waterfall in the center and night lighting. There were Hawaiian themed shorts and shirts available that the men wore to the buffet dinner.

Day 5 Friday Ibusuki Onsen to Kumamoto A long bus ride took us back past Kagoshima while Mt. Sakurajima was having a small sudden eruption. Maeda, our driver called it *kawaii (cute)*. Lots of tunnels. Our first stop was Kumamoto Castle, recently restored, and one of the biggest and best in Japan. We could see our hotel from the top. We checked in at the Hotel Nikko Kumamoto, right downtown. Here we found good computer access for the first time, and checked our email.

Day 6 Saturday Kumamoto to Hell and Nagasaki. A short ride with a ferry hop to Unzen (*wizard (or hermit)*) Mountain in Japan's first national park. We arrived in Jigoku (*Hell*) with lots of volcanic activity, sulfur boiling springs, one screaming fumarole. We lunched in a kind of mountain chalet before heading off to Nagasaki, to visit ground zero and the peace museum. It gives you a considerable sense of grief to see what this aspect of the war was like. The Hotel New Nagasaki is across from the train station, and the rooms smelled badly of cigarette smoke. According to Yukari, there was an air conditioning button somewhere in the room, but we never found it. Fortunately, the window opened top and bottom about 2 inches, and I propped the door open with my big Kanji book so it would not blow closed, while still keeping it locked with the chain. It was still pretty warm and muggy and I was up in the middle of the night and wrote an email to my cousins Mary and Elaine whose father had been in Japan during the occupation after WWII.

Day 7 Sunday Nagasaki Nice walk up the steep hill to where the Dutch traders lived and the sight that inspired Puccini's Mme. Butterfly. Nice breeze blowing, still weather unseasonably warm for October. Went to Dejima Island briefly, where trading took place, then back to our hotel and watched a parade.

Day 8 Monday Nagasaki Arita Imari Karatsu Fukuoka A nice day of travel through the countryside, stopping at a pottery museum and a working pottery shop, and seeing green fields, Karatsu Castle, and festival floats. In Fukuoka, we went out to dinner with Greg at a cafe with small portions, probably lunch sized, but we had some dessert in our hotel rooms later. After several false starts, and the assistance of a Japanese-American who had recently visited Walnut Creek, Greg and I managed to buy DVDs to offload our camera photos.

Day 9 Tuesday Fukuoka Hiroshima A day with a lot of rail travel. We met at 8:20, and our group was definitely counter-commuting, with hordes of people filling the sidewalks coming in the other direction. Our Shinkansen car #10 was empty except for us, so we all got window seats if we wanted. We arrived in an hour and a half, then a short walk through the station and we were at the Hotel Granvia, where we left our luggage, but were too early for check-in. Back to the other station for the tram to the ferry to Miajima Island where there is a temple and a large torii gate in the water. The island now has dappled whitetail deer. One ate Carolyn's map—they seem to like the maps a lot, but the ink can't be good for them. The temple was nice, but a lot of walking. We had lunch at about 1:00 in a little shop run by an older lady that only had one other customer, then desserts along the way—ice cream cones, then mimijima filled cakes, coffee. On the ferry at 2:00, then on a long ride on a crowded tram to the Peace Park. Afterwards Juri walked the 2 miles back with an expedition but some of us had walked enough and took the crowded tram back in 5:00 traffic.

Day 10 Wednesday Hiroshima Naoshima Art Island A morning with too much travel—Shinkansen, two trams, ferry, and hotel shuttle to get to Naoshima. Dropped off luggage at the hotel at 11:45 am, but again too early to check in. Took shuttle back to town on Naoshima for lunch. Then saw 3 art houses. Strange preburned siding is used to keep insects away. Back to hotel at 2:15 and they let us check in early. Had a nice nap and everything was much calmer and prettier. Dinner was at the Museum and was very formal and elaborate, but almost all fish. Afterwards we toured the museum containing modern art, rather sparse but interesting. To bed early, about 9:00, and slept well.

Day 11 Thursday Naoshima to Kyoto Got up early and walked the grounds before breakfast. Breakfast buffet was very good on the terrace overlooking the inland sea that was calm as a lake. I felt like the time on the trip was really speeding by. A lot of travel today—off by bus to the ferry to a tram, then took another tram to the Shinkansen, then off to Kyoto where a chartered bus was waiting to take us to Hotel Okura, arriving about 1:45. Checked in to a beautiful big room on the ninth floor. The bathroom had both a shower and a tub. At lunch, Carolyn got a movie of the noodle chef making his noodles. Off to dinner in the evening with Greg who had taken the orientation by our guide Miko at 2:30 and knew where things were. Walked around the shops a little, and had a visit by Kathy who wanted a corkscrew. To bed early, exhausted by lifting all the luggage that day and traveling in the heat. The worst part had been carrying Carolyn's 35 pound and my 25 pound bag up 2 flights of stairs at the ferry. I slept well, though.

Day 12 Friday Kyoto We did not do very much today, other than visit the Handicraft Museum with Linda and Juri. There were a few craftsmen making things and we watched a man do a Buddhist carving. After a late lunch we saw a bit more of the handicraft Museum, got some things at the gift shop, glanced at a calligraphy display, went out looking for Heian shrine, went the wrong way. Saw the giant Chinese red torii, got a cab and went back to the Okura hotel. In the evening, before dinner, we went to Gion corner to see the touristy show of Japanese Cultural Arts. Then back to the Hotel for a dinner of mixed club sandwiches and a parfait, and retired to our room. An easy day, which we needed, to rest up for the weekend.

Day 13 Saturday Kyoto to Sakai. Got our big bags out in the hall, went to breakfast on floor 17. Most folks had already been to breakfast, but Bonnie and Gary were still there. Got to the lobby just at the appointed time, bussed to the Imperial Hotel (on the water) in Sakai, and boarded a riverboat for a lunch cruise with some of the Sakai-Berkeley Assn. The food was very good, and we came back to city hall to meet host families in a formal introduction. Carolyn and I had opted for a hotel stay and we were taken to our hotel by taxis with Juri and Linda and Wayne and Yukari, when the host families left. The hotel was renamed the Agora Regency from the Royal Rihga, and had reopened Oct 1. The rooms were spacious and we had a great view of the harbor from the 23rd floor. The reception was at 6:00pm, and was all standing. The speeches went on for an hour and a half before dinner with mayor Takeyama and his staff present. Our friend Kumiko (formerly Kanda) came in from Kobe. Afterwards our friend Yukari Ishida brought her brother Kinya's boys by for a visit in the lobby.

Day 14 Sunday Sakai Kobe Carolyn, Greg and I were hosted by Mrs Tadaoka and Takashi, the Hatanagas, the Kishiis, and the Kishii's daughter to a cruise lunch in Kobe on the *Concerto*. A formal lunch in courses, with a euphonium and piano combo. Very nice. Then up to Mount Rokko to see the view, some artwork and shopping in the gift shops. Finally dinner at Granite, outdoors under an eave viewing fireworks on the bay. Hazy weather, but better at night. The first time on this trip that I needed my coat. Finally it rained a bit, and we all welcomed the lattes at the end of the meal. A long winding trip down Rokko, and back to the hotel at 8:00 pm. A full day of tourism.

Day 15 Monday Sakai It was Health and Sports day, a national semi-holiday, the day when news carriers get a day off their deliveries. Men in city hall had suits, but no ties. We had a formal meeting with gift exchanges with the mayor and the top two in the city council. A viewing of the grand council chambers. Bus to the park, walk to the Peace Grove, lunch and tour of the new Bicycle Museum at the edge of the park, opened for us by order of Mr. Shimano, closed to the public, perhaps because of the holiday. Trip to the huge solar power station with acres of solar panels, and then off to the new sports complex, about 90 acres. I jogged around the 400 meter track, joined by Juri, Judith, JoAnn, and others. The bus dropped us off at our hotel first. Two hours to pack and rest, then walked a few hundred feet to a dinner at Capricciosa with Yukari and Kinya Ishida and their mother. Finally an hour shopping and back to finish packing.

Day 16 Tuesday Return Home We had breakfast and then met with friends who stopped by to greet us at the hotel, then traveled by bus to the Osaka Itami airport for a flight to Narita and then home.