



A STONE LANTERN IN CITY HALL COURTYARD IS GIFT FROM SAKAI  
from left, Shigeru Jio, Wallace Johnson, Tad Hirota and Roger Bales

—I-G photo

## Berkeley host families sought for Sakai visitors in August

Ten years ago Berkeley began a sister-city relationship with the industrial giant of Sakai, Japan, to promote appreciation of each other's culture, customs and people and to strengthen international friendship and understanding.

The "founding father" of this program was Berkeley's Shigeru Jio who researched and recommended acceptance of Sakai's invitation for sisterhood. The Berkeley City Council and then Mayor Wallace Johnson passed a resolution to establish the affiliation on March 15, 1966.

Since that time a people-to-people exchange has included four groups of high school and college students travelling through Japan to Sakai City plus numerous city delegations and good-will groups.

They have been met with traditional hospitality and welcomed in homes of a community anxious to learn about American ways and to present their history and customs through the many shrines, temples, ceremonies and rituals of their society.

Now Berkeley awaits the arrival of a fifth student delegation on Aug. 7—fresh from a tour of Disneyland and the Grand Canyon, eager to buy American blue jeans and records, and anxious to learn about American life and young people.

Roger Bales, vice-chairman of the Berkeley-Sakai Association and group leader of the 1975 exchange, is accepting applications from Berkeley families who wish to host one of these Sakai students next fall.

Host families provide room and board and necessary

local transportation for student visitors. They will be asked to extend their hospitality to one visitor for 10 days of the three-week visit, or they may have a second student for another 10-day period. During this time they are invited to attend all family events of the program being planned by alumni of previous exchanges.

Those interested in serving as host families should call Bales at 524-3642.

The Berkeley-Sakai Association consists of community members interested in this sister-city program and always welcomes new members in an effort to increase community participation.

Those who are interested in experiencing international friendship on a smaller scale might wish to explore pen pals. Several junior high school students from Sakai, age 14 years, would like to correspond in English with Berkeley pen pals. Prospective correspondents should contact Bales, or association Chair Marie Gilchrist at 526-5673.

The stone lantern which stands among the rhododendrons in front of city hall was presented to Mayor Johnson, Shigeru Jio and Tad Hirota, directors of the Berkeley-Sakai Association and Chairman William Porter at special ceremonies in Sakai in 1967.

The following year Berkeley presented Sakai's first official delegation with a black terrazzo and bronze sundial created and designed by East Bay engineer Frank Cheney. It stands in front of Citizens' Hall in Sakai, and a replica has been installed in the fishing pier plaza of Berkeley's marina.