

# BERKELEY-SAKAI SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION



Celebrating over 50 years of Friendship



バークレー・堺 50年超える友好

2019 Annual Meeting & Potluck

Friday, March 8 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 10, plus something to drink. Board will supply main course, dessert and beverages.

You are cordially invited to our dinner, which is open to everyone, not just Board Members.

## Welcome to 2019

*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. You can also visit our web page to make your membership contribution.*

*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.*

## **Proposed 2019 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, Juri Komendant, Kathryn Lucchesse, Atsuko Morse, Roy Nierenberg, Noriko Nishizawa, Cheryl Rego, Steve Rego, Carolyn Rising, Jay Sordean, Sally Stevens, and Barbara Stevens Strauss.

## **2018 Student Exchange**

Junsaka and I stepped out of the house to the buzz of a thousand cicadas, semi in Japanese; “mimi” is the noise they make. The cacophany would rise and fall as the sound rippled throughout the city. We were going to the Sakai City High School to meet local students and introduce our own students.

At the high school Steve Rego, Juri Komendant and I introduced our exchange students, Gabby Rego, Kihiro Lambert, and Ricky Carter. After the student slide shows, everyone except the women were ushered out of the classroom. Sorami (Gabby’s host), Gabby and myself were dressed in yukatas. Then the men were dressed. While we were being groomed, the tea ceremony was prepared in another classroom designed for tea ceremony lessons and events. Young women in the ceremonial room instructed us to sit. The heat and humidity were unrelenting, yet somehow I felt cool and comfortable bundled inside of my yukata. Kneeling was also made easier as my legs gained some amount of structure through the layers of fabric. This did not prohibit them from falling asleep, however.

After the tea ceremony we all returned to the first classroom for lunch where we found trays of mini sandwiches filled with meats, strawberries or kiwi. I discovered that the tea ceremony hostess had been practicing for 7 years. They liked American movies such as Pirates of the Carribean and Frozen. I said Frozen was wildly popular in the US. Every child I knew would sing “let it go” dramatically. They laughed and said this happened in Japan too. Later, we split ourselves into separate groups to play a card game where receiving an image of a bald man means you will lose all of your cards. The idea was to accumulate as many cards as possible. This was an extraordinary moment where everyone relaxed, laughed and spoke the common language of play. As we drove away on the bus to go to city hall, our new friends stood in the parking lot waving goodbye.

The mayor asked each of the students what they most wanted to do during their stay. Kihiro responded in Japanese, impressing the office of the mayor. Gabby spoke about her excitement to return and her friendship with Sorami. I spoke about the students that could not make the trip. It was at the Sakai City Hall where I watched one of our students have a wonderful moment of presence. Up to this point, Ricky had been so calm and cool, I couldn't get a read on his mood. When the Sakai City mayor got to him, his enthusiasm came unbridled as he felt he had already met his goal, he was here. He made it to Japan!

The kids enjoyed the next few days with their host families before we parted ways. We went to Kyoto to find hotter weather and more cicadas. We visited and got a memorable tour of Fushimi Inari Taisha by the head priest himself. After crossing the famous bridge, Togetsu-kyo (moon crossing bridge) we hiked up the slopes of Arashiyama (Storm Mountain) to see the Japanese Macaques. Our stay in Kyoto ended with a memorable light show at the Kodaiji Temple. Tokyo's modernity set us all on different adventures, where some wanted to see shows and others wanted to see manga or technology. We want to continue to make this trip possible to the students who would not normally have the resources for this type of exchange. Our cities are diverse and our exchange last year got a chance to reflect that diversity.

### **2019 Senshu Marathon Runner**

The 26<sup>th</sup> KIX Senshu International Marathon took place on Sunday, February 17, 2019. This year's guest runner from Berkeley was Rachel Valenzuela. Rachel ran the marathon in 2017 and enjoyed her experience so much she volunteered to run again. Trained as a firefighter/medic, she works out of the Elmwood station and was promoted to apparatus operator last year. In her spare time, she is busy raising four children! During her stay in Sakai (February 15 to February 21), she visited Mayor Takeyama and a local elementary school. Rachel stayed with a host family 3 nights and at a hotel 3 nights and was shown around the town and local area. Sakai covers the expenses for a guest runner from each of its sister cities and friendship cities every year. We are so very fortunate to have such a kind and generous sister city!

### **Student Exchange 2019/2020:**

#### **Cheryl Rego - BSA Student Exchange**

The Board is currently seeking local host families for summer of 2019, with students who would be interested in traveling to Japan in 2020. Two announcements were read at Berkeley High School and we have 18 interest forms submitted. Also, we currently have 6 new families confirmed to attend our annual dinner in March!

Please contact Cheryl Rego, [crego@berkeley-sakai.org](mailto:crego@berkeley-sakai.org), if you would like to share at our March 8th annual dinner about your previous experience with our student exchange program. We would love to hear from you if you have traveled to Sakai with our students or if you have hosted a Japanese student in your home.

2019 Exchange Details - We will be hosting 6 students from Sakai, Japan, for 6 days, July 26 to July 31, 2019.

2020 Exchange Details - We will make arrangements for 6 students and 2 chaperones to travel to Sakai, Japan for 10 days during late July of 2020, with possible side trips to Kyoto, Nara and/or Tokyo.



If you would like more information about the 2019 or 2020 programs, please check out the student exchange page on our website.

### **2019 Sakai Goodwill Delegation**

Berkeley will host the 10<sup>th</sup> Goodwill Delegation from Sakai this year, from September 14-18 (4 nights/5days). A visit to Mayor Arreguin will be planned as well as local activities and tours. We won't know until later this year how many guests will be coming, but if you would like to host someone or join in our activities, please let us know (email Linda at [lindak@berkeley-sakai.org](mailto:lindak@berkeley-sakai.org)). This is a great way to build friendships.

### **The CA-Japan Sister Cities Network (CJSCN) Launch Workshop**

At the end of 2018, California had 107 sister city relationships with cities in Japan. The oldest was established in 1957, while the newest was formed in the 4th quarter of 2018: Crescent City-Rikuzentakata City. While each sister city relationship is unique, the sister city organizations have many things in common, especially the issues and challenges that each one faces. This was a common refrain when the members of different sister city groups would meet at functions at the San Francisco Japanese Consulate. Somewhere along the way, a few sister city groups had the idea of forming a network. That idea soon blossomed into an organization, and thus the California-Japan Sister City Network was born.

The California-Japan Sister City Network (CJSCN) is a fully-registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to provide support to and connections between all sister city and friendship city organizations of California. One of the goals and potential advantages of the network would be the ability to access funding sources that might not otherwise be available to the smaller individual organizations. Another goal of the network is to facilitate the sharing of ideas among the member organizations.

The CJSCN started the ball rolling with an Inaugural Workshop and Reception in San Francisco on October 26, 2018. Gary Gibson and Barbara Stevens Strauss attended as representatives of the Berkeley-Sakai Association. You can read about the event on the CJSCN website at: <https://www.caljapansistercities.org/20181026-workshop-in-san-francisco>

One of the interesting takeaways from the workshop was that all of the sister city organizations are facing the same issues, mainly:

- member retention and new member recruitment
- membership aging
- fundraising needs

among other things. In general, the consensus was that student exchanges were a very successful vehicle for resolving the first two issues, while periodic public events could help with the latter issue. Different groups had different ways of achieving those goals, so idea sharing among the organizations was met with great enthusiasm.

One of the highlights of the event was the inspiring story of how the Crescent City-Rikuzentakata sister city relationship came to be. By now, many people are probably familiar with the story of Kamome, but it was wonderful to hear it from the Mayor of Crescent City. All in all, the workshop was a successful launch for the CA-Japan Sister City Network. Many organizations, including the Berkeley-Sakai Association, have already joined the network. We expect good things to come of this in 2019!

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

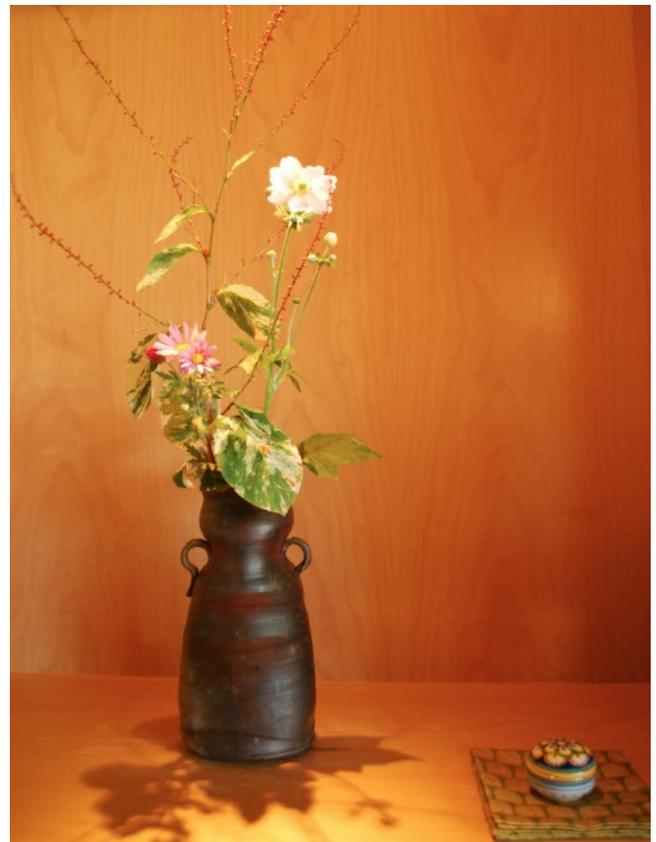
The Berkeley-Sakai Digital Photography Exchange (aka Photo Exchange) between high school photography students in Berkeley, California and Sakai, Japan will begin its eighth year in 2018. The Photo Exchange was established in 2010 as a way to use the internet to connect high school students from Berkeley 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 transcends the limits of time and space.

## Bringing the Outside In: An Introduction to Chabana

The great tea master Sen no Rikkyu gave us many gifts in the creation of the tea ceremony. Among the most accessible is the art called 'chabana' or tea flowers. The simple principles of this delightful art form will be taught in a single, hands on session so that you can enjoy this naturalistic beauty in your own space. We will use garden flowers and small vases to create arrangements during the workshop. You will leave with the ability to arrange simple flowers and enhance your environment without the years of training usually required by these intricate Japanese art forms. Bring your own small vase as well - and carry exquisite beauty home.



Demonstrating in venues including the Oakland Asian Cultural Center and UC Botanical Garden.



Chabana represents the natural world in the tea room. Its simple principles will enable you to create elegant designs in your own space.

## **The Fern Harger Fund**

Fern Harger Scholarship Fund Has Been Busy!  
(And Therefore Needs to Be Replenished)  
by Kate Mitchell Lucchese, BSSE 1973

I call upon all my fellow BSSE Alumni — and all other Berkeleyites who believe in the power of student-to-student exchanges to promote cultural understanding — to step up to support scholarships for local kids to visit Sakai.

Your past generosity has been channelled to do exactly that, with the result that we need new donations for new kids to travel, with the continuing goal of providing as much financial support as each student needs to meet travel expenses.

The late, great Fern Harger led my 1973 BSSE group. Her skills in teaching history and culture, her sunny diplomacy and selfless determination have shaped my life as a teacher and given me a life-long interest in Japan.

Won't you join me in honoring her memory with a generous donation to the Fern Harger Fund? *Domo arigato gozaimasu*, and see you at the Annual Meeting!

## **2018/2019 Kindergarten Art**

We are delighted to send artwork from Libby Trumbull's Kindergarten class for our annual exchange. School started in August last year so the first set of pictures is from the very beginning of school for the students who were then four and five years old. They drew themselves and their families, friends and pets. Their stories were mostly about what they wanted to learn in school.

The second set of drawings was completed in October and November. By then, the students are usually five years old. The art techniques included dipping colored tissue scraps in vinegar and applying them to their papers. Later the tissues were removed and the students drew buildings with black markers. Their amusing stories are about what happens in their buildings or cities.

We continue to be grateful to Mrs Trumbull for helping her students provide the art for our Berkeley-Sakai Kindergarten Art Exchange and to Noriko Nishizawa for translating the Berkeley stories into Japanese and the Japanese stories into English.

Art done by the Berkeley and Sakai kindergarten students will be on display at the Annual Meeting.

**[berkeley-sakai.org](http://berkeley-sakai.org)**

Please visit our website “[berkeley-sakai.org](http://berkeley-sakai.org)” Our Website Committee has regular meetings to keep our site up-to-date. Some of the items that may be of interest to you include the latest information on our student exchange and goodwill programs. When you visit our site, please click on the menu icon and “Exchanges” to navigate to “Student Exchanges, Goodwill Visits, Artist Exchanges, Marathon, Photography Exchange, Kindergarten Art and Girl Scouts” where we have information on present and past exchanges.

We recently added historic information about the 1968-1992 and 1992-2007 Student Exchanges; and if you have anything you would like us to consider adding, please contact us at [info@berkeley-sakai.org](mailto:info@berkeley-sakai.org)

**Annual Dinner - Wine Wall Fundraiser:**  
Cheryl Rego - BSA Student Exchange

We are excited to announce our Wine Wall Fundraiser at the annual dinner this year. We will be presenting between 20 and 30 bottles of wine that average \$25 each. There will be one exception: a hidden bottle will be valued over \$100! Be sure to bring your checkbooks so you can not only help raise money for BSA, but also receive a wonderful bottle of wine. You can't lose! Plus, you'll have a chance to go home with that one special bottle.

