
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

2020 Annual Meeting & Potluck

Friday, March 13 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. Board will supply main course, dessert and
beverages.

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

Proposed 2020 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 Lucchese, Atsuko Morse, Roy
Nierenberg, Noriko Nishizawa, Cheryl Rego,
Steve Rego, Carolyn Rising, Jay Sordean, Sally
Stevens, and Barbara Stevens Strauss.

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Annual Dinner - Wine Wall Fundraiser:

We are excited to
announce the return
of our Wine Wall
Fundraiser at the
annual dinner this
year. We will be
presenting 25
bottles of wine that
average \$25 each.
There will be one
exception: a hidden

bottle will be valued over \$60! 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!



Newly Elected Mayor for Sakai City

A candidate from the regional party Osaka Ishin no Kai (One Osaka) won the mayoral election in Sakai, Osaka Prefecture in June 2019. Hideki Nagafuji, a 42-year-old former Osaka Prefectural Assembly member, defeated two other contenders, with a voter turnout of 40.83%. The regional party's Osaka metropolis plan calls for reorganizing the prefectural capital of Osaka into special wards. In April, the party won the Osaka prefectural and mayoral elections. Mayor Nagafuji replaces former Mayor Osami Takeyama who stepped down in April 2019.

BSA Student Exchange

2019 Exchange Recap - Seven families hosted seven students and three chaperones from Sakai, Japan, for 6 days from July 26 to July 31, 2019. The group visited several locations including Pixar Studios, The Golden Gate Bridge, UC Berkeley and the Mayor's office. Everyone spent a special day with their host families and one of the highlights continues to be the bbq pool party where the Sakai students present on various cultural themes.

2020 Exchange Details - Our student hosts from the summer of 2019 are traveling to Sakai, Japan for 12 days departing on July 23rd. The students and chaperones will stay with host families in Sakai and then stay in Kyoto. The exchange group will visit Nara and other locations from both Sakai and Kyoto. We are currently interviewing to fill one more spot. If you have an interested high school student please email Cheryl Rego, crego@berkeley-sakai.org.

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. If you would like to share at our March 13th annual dinner please email crego@berkeley-sakai.org.

Lastly, the board is beginning to look for families interested in hosting our 2021 students visiting from Sakai. Please refer to our website for more information.

SF Cherry Blossom Grand Parade April 21, 2019

Seven brave folks – four adults and three teenaged girls – turned out on Easter, April 21, 2019 to march in the San Francisco Cherry Blossom Grand Parade, from City Hall to Japantown. We had been invited to join the big Oakland-Fukuoka contingent informally. They led with their banner and were mostly dressed in festive happi-coats and t-shirts decorated with the logo of their organization.

We had a banner with our name and motto: “BERKELEY-SAKAI ASSOCIATION: TOGETHER CREATING A PEACEFUL WORLD THROUGH FRIENDSHIP & CULTURAL EXCHANGE” and wore (kind of boring, one of the

girls thought) white t-shirts with our own logo on the front and BERKELEY-SAKAI in English and Japanese on the back and “SISTER-CITIES SINCE 1967”.

It was a longish walk and a little windy for our too-flexible banner pole, but a beautiful, sunny day, with lots of cheers for our motto and (I think) presence in the parade. It was also fun to hang out at the starting point with so many other interesting groups of dancers, musicians and adorable dogs. Of course, it was also fun to wind up in the middle of the Cherry Blossom Festival, at the end, but because we were not a formal entry, there was no “blurb” for the announcer at the grandstand to read.

We improvised, but decided it would be better somehow to march with other East Bay or Bay Area groups yet have our own entry, which is being planned for 2020.

Maybe we also get cooler-looking t shirts or maybe happy-coats like Oakland's??



Fall Information Display at the Berkeley Public Library Central Branch

In April, 2019, curious to find out whether we could revive the Berkeley Public Library's Central Branch “Berkeley-Sakai Corner” from years back, the Board authorized Member Kate Lucchese to meet with James Findley of the library's Reference Department to take a look at the small collection of materials and files conserved there.



Kate reported back to the Board that the Library would be happy to let us use their display cases to mount a mini-exhibition about the Berkeley-Sakai sister-city program for the month of September. She and Barbara Strauss offered to set up 5 display cases, and the Komendants generously provided boxes of beautiful gifts and publications from their years with the exchange, while Gary Gibson lent two sets of full Kendo armor from the Sakai Kendo dojo. Information about the items, basic facts about the organization, and the B-S A website address were put in the cases, but also our three-fold fliers were placed near the cases and at the Circulation desk. At the end of September, all but the big vertical cases on the street level were allowed to remain up until the middle of December. By then, All the fliers were gone, and hopefully, we have raised some community awareness.

Berkeley-Sakai Kindergarten Art Exchange 2020

The kindergarten students from Libby Trumbull's class at Thousand Oaks Elementary School provided the art for our kindergarten art exchange again this year. Pictures #1-16 were inspired by a Latina artist. The students were supposed to draw their heads and shoulders or whole bodies and objects or activities they enjoy. Pictures #17-27 were completed after studying a prolific young Haitian/Puerto Rican artist, Jean-Michel Basquiat. He began his artistic career spray painting graffiti on buildings in Lower Manhattan. According to Wikipedia, his art "focused on dichotomies such as wealth versus poverty, integration vs segregation and inner versus outer experience." In 2017, 30 years after his death, one of his paintings sold at a Sotheby's auction for \$110.5 million, a record high for any American artist. He taught that all of us are kings or queens so after drawing a face and shoulders self-portrait you could add a crown to show how special you are. You could add a halo if you were really, really special. Basquiat liked bright colors so the students prepared their background papers by laying out bright tissue paper scraps and applying vinegar to release the color. When that dried they painted using black tempera paint. They were excited to know their paintings are being shown in a country far away. They are also looking forward to seeing Japanese writing on their stories.

The Berkeley-Sakai Website

The Berkeley-Sakai Association (BSA) website is your information portal for all things BSA.

Have you visited our website lately? Over the past year, the website committee consisting of Gary Gibson, Juri Komendant, Don Rising and Brad McCullough has been meeting monthly to add new content to our site. This year we expanded the history section to include news and images highlighting the fifty-two year history of our organization. We are currently adding information about each of the previous student exchanges.

The BSA website is also a great way to make donations to the Fern Harger Scholarship Fund or to renew your membership in the Berkeley-Sakai Association. You can pay via PayPal or credit card.

The BSA website can be reached at <https://berkeley-sakai.org>

The Berkeley-Sakai Facebook page is still highly active and can be reached from the BSA website, or via the URL: <https://facebook.berkeley-sakai.org>

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.

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 Please visit it periodically for we are continuously working on it.