

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

Annual Membership Meeting and Potluck.

Friday, March 8 at 6:00 pm

Berkeley Methodist United Church

1710 Carleton Street, Berkeley

We would like to invite you to the 2024 Annual Membership Meeting and Potluck, which will be held at the Berkeley Methodist United Church, 1710 Carleton Street, Berkeley. The Berkeley-Sakai Association Board members will supply main courses, dessert and beverages. Please bring an appetizer, salad or side dish to share.

Proposed 2024 Board of Directors

Kathryn Lucchese	Chairperson	Sally Stevens
Gary Gibson	Vice Chairperson	Jay Sordean
Maria LaForge	Treasurer	Noriko Nishizawa
Linda Komendant	Secretary	Forest Borie
Brad McCullough	Auditor	Atsuko Morse
Juri Komendant		Cheryl Rego
Don Rising		Steve Rego
Carolyn Rising		Barbara Stevens Strauss
		Roy Nierenberg

This is the proposed Board of Directors for 2024. We have an opening for one more director. We especially need someone with expertise on social media. Please contact us if interested (lindak@berkeley-sakai.org).

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. We have been active and successful in arranging student exchanges since 1968, as well as goodwill visits, school visits and programs, marathon runners, artist exchanges, kindergarten art exchanges, and individual visits and home stays. Donations can be made by check made out to the Berkeley-Sakai Association using the enclosed envelope or through PayPal on our website at: <https://berkeley-sakai.org> We could not do this without your support and contributions. Thank you for making all this possible.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

2023 was an exciting year at the Berkeley-Sakai Association. Last June, we sent a Board delegate, Forest Borie, as Goodwill Ambassador to Sakai, assuring them of our continuing interest in warm relations as we emerge from COVID. Sakai's Mayor Hideki Nagafuji and Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin have been building their relationship via Zoom communication. Art is again flowing between our cities, both from grown-ups and Kindergarteners. But most exciting of all is our BSSE 2024 group of six wonderful Berkeley High students you can meet in person at our Annual Dinner on March 8th at Berkeley Methodist United Church, or see on April 21st marching in this year's SF Cherry Blossom Grand Parade, beside Board members in our new happi-coats. Read on for details!

All the best from Kathryn Mitchell Lucchese, BSSE 1973 and your new Board of Directors Chair

TATSUMAKI TAIKO AT THE ANNUAL DINNER!

Our friends at Tatsumaki Taiko will inaugurate a great new year of sister-cityhood with their drumming magic at our Annual Dinner March 8th. Don't miss it!

BSA STUDENT EXCHANGE 2024

Cheryl Rego

Six Berkeley High School students have been selected to travel to Sakai, Japan, for 14 days, departing on July 24th and returning on August 6th, along with three chaperones.

The students will stay with host families in Sakai and then visit Kyoto and Hiroshima.



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 \$30 each. There will be one exception: a hidden bottle will be valued over \$70! Be sure to bring cash or checks (paypal is also available) so you can not only help raise money for BSA, but also receive a wonderful bottle of wine. You can't lose!

GOODWILL VISIT 2024

A Goodwill Delegation from Sakai will visit Berkeley October 17-21, 2024. At this point in time 10 members have signed up to come to Berkeley for 4 nights/5 days. The trip is in the planning stages but we should be hearing from Sakai in the next couple of months with a list of who is coming. In the meantime, please consider being a host family for an individual or a couple and joining us in hosting this delegation. Events and activities will be planned by the Association, including a Welcome Party, a group activity, and a Say-onara Party. Host families provide room and board for the time the group is in Berkeley and one or two days of sightseeing or activity for their guests.

The Board is gearing up well in advance for the big 60th Anniversary Celebrations in 2027. Ideas include: bedazzling with mosaics the existing Sakai-Berkeley Sundial (down at the Berkeley Pier, which is due for a complete renovation in the next few years), a big

blow-out party at the Julia Morgan Building of the UC Botanical Gardens, and a Goodwill Visit to Sakai. Contact Kate at klucchese@berkeley-sakai.org to join in our efforts.

ALUMNI CLUB RE-BOOT!

Want to talk over old times with fellow Alumni and make fabulous new memories? Contact me at klucchese@berkeley-sakai.org to join the ALUMNI CLUB REBOOT and brainstorm for the 2027 60th Anniversary celebrations, fundraise for the Fern Harger scholarship fund, or just hang out regularly over bento. Don't wait: email me today!

THE BERKELEY-SAKAI WEBSITE

The Berkeley-Sakai Association website <<https://berkeley-sakai.org>> provides information about our organization, current and past exchange programs and Japanese-related events of interest to our membership. In addition, you can also view images from previous and current exchanges and events on our website. It also provides an easy way to join our organization, renew friendships, send us a donation and contribute to the Fern Harger scholarship fund, which provides financial aid to help students participate in our student exchange program.

This year the BSA web committee is working on upgrades to the website to make it faster and more responsive to a wide variety of mobile devices.

We continue to add historical content about past exchanges and events. If you have information or pictures related to our association or our exchange programs, we are interested hearing from you! Please contact us at bsawebinfo@berkeley-sakai.org.

In addition to our main website, we are also active on Facebook. You can find our Facebook page via the Facebook icon on any page of our website, from the Links pager go directly to our Facebook page via the URL: <<http://facebook.berkeley-sakai.org>>

"MAPPING MY LIFE IN PHOTOS" PHOTO EXCHANGE PROJECT

Here is the plan we worked out locally, translated, and sent it to Sakai, who hope to implement it for Spring 2025. Much excitement on both sides! – KMLucchese

NOTE: If Sakai cannot supply a translator for this project, we will work to supply one.

WHO: Berkeley High School's chief photography teacher, Mr. Gabriel Berent, would lead a Photography Exchange between his Beginning and Advanced classes and interested students in Sakai. We will support him in this with a small stipend for supplies.

WHEN: A one-month project, to take place at the very beginning of Sakai's school year from mid-April 15 and run through mid-May. The project will begin with a 20-minute Zoom session for the students and teachers to meet one another. We will find the perfect morning/afternoon meeting time, and will arrange to have a translator present.

WHAT: First, the students in both Berkeley and Sakai will note down their daily and weekly routines to decide where are the key places, what are the key events, and who are the key people in their lives. Second, they will spend a week or longer taking pictures of these places, events, and people at various times of day or at the time the student usually goes there or sees them. Third, using the program Padlet, they will upload the photos and put comments on them, ideally linking them to a digital map of the Sakai (or at our end Berkeley) area.

THEN WHAT: All photos will be posted on a shared, private webpage, but students' favorites will be printed and mounted in public exhibitions at either end, either at a school or in another public place. Still photos and videos of these exhibitions will then be shared between the two groups and discussed in the final 20-minute Zoom session.

It will teach good photography skills, increase mutual understanding, and make people happy!

BERKELEY-SAKAI KINDERGARTEN ART EXCHANGE

Carolyn Rising

Berkeley's Thousand Oaks Kindergarten children, under the direction of their teacher Libby Trumbull, participated in our beloved kindergarten art exchange. Their drawings are hanging in the city hall of our sister city, Sakai, Japan. We plan to put the pictures on our website soon.

Our kindergarten students completed their art work in October, 2023 while in their second month of school. By now they have all turned 5 years old. They drew self portraits which may include family members or pets.

We hope to receive art work from Sakai by the time of our annual meeting. We will also post these drawings on our website.

We owe many thanks to Libby Trumbull who has helped her class participate in the art exchange for many years, and to Noriko Nishizawa who translates our Berkeley students' stories into Japanese and Sakai students' stories into English each year.

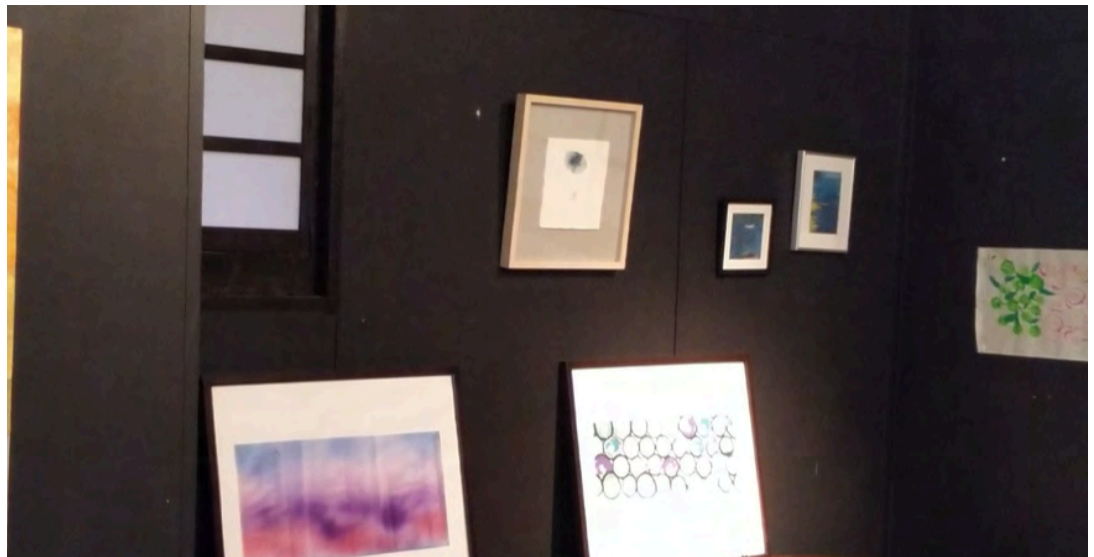
KOSKUSAI ART BRIDGE

Koskusai ART BRIDGE displayed the work of 7 bay area artists - Mimi Scheiner, Michele Theberge, Clare Olivares, Meganne Kelly(Maine), Whitney Vosburgh, Philip Donahue and Barbara Stevens Strauss.

The Sakai artists are Toyoaki Ikushima, Masaru Oya Takuya Fujiwara, Mikako Watanabe, Kyouko Suekane, Kei Tsuchinaga, Masaka Takai, Keiko Sawada, Yumiko Sasaki, Shunji Arikawa, Waen Horada, Kauzo Horada, Masumi Boshita, Junichi Hotta.

As Kenzo Yamaji is turning 100 years old this year(!) it has been decided that Katsumi Mizoguchi, Toyoaki Ikushima, and Junichi Hotta will be appointed International Art Bridge representative directors from 2024.

Approximately 90 people attended the exhibit, using DM which featured artwork by Barbara Strauss as well as using social media to publicize the event. This will be the last year Dotoan will be used for the In-



ternational Art Bridge exhibit, because the building is scheduled for demolition in the summer of 2024. Hotta-san thanks all of the participating artists for sending their work over the years.

Next year the Exchange Exhibition will be held at the Sakai City Machiya History Museum. It is anticipated that there will be greater attendance due to tourism.

The home of one of our artist members, Masumi Boshita (masumiboshita.com) from Wajima City was completely destroyed in the recent tsunami. She is a paper cutting artist who lived in the Bay Area for five years when she was a student. Her family was rescued by helicopter and relocated to her younger brother's home in Saitama, and everyone is safe. Hotta-san requested that we visit her facebook page to show our support. There are some pieces that have the Golden Gate bridge as their subject!

Hotta-san also solicits paper designs for next November, to be lit up at Daisen Park. He encourages everyone to make a design to the Mantoe-e display of 4000 picture lanterns, conveying wishes for 'peace, love and bonds'. I have the special paper for anyone who'd

like to contribute to this beauti Many thanks for the opportunity to display art in Japan!
As Chairman Yamaji says: ' Continuing international exchange is important'!

JANUARY 1ST NOTO PENINSULA EARTHQUAKE RELIEF DONATIONS

The SF Japanese Consulate has made arrangements to start accepting donations for the January 1, 2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake. Donations can only be made by check and instructions can be found at the following link: https://www.sf.us.emb-japan.go.jp/it-pr/en/24_0122.html

KENZO YAMAJI 100th BIRTHDAY

Yamaji-san is one of our oldest and dearest friends from Sakai. He joined the Sakai-Berkeley Association in 1976, was Vice Chairperson from 1982-1988, and Chairperson from 1988-2010. Since then he has been Honorary Chairperson. He was the leader of several Goodwill Visits to Berkeley - 1986, 1995, 1999, 2006.

Yamaji-san began his career as an English teacher at a junior high school, then became Vice Principal and finally Principal. In 1977 he worked with the Board of Education of Osaka and Sakai City, and worked with several Sakai City organizations. From 1984-1944 he was a Lecturer at the Osaka International University of Women (Teikoku Joshitandai).

His relationship (and love) with Berkeley started 1973 when he was delegated by the English teachers organization of a junior high School in the Kinki area to lead a group for an English training course at UCB. He has since gained many honors. In 2000 he became Berkeley's first and only Honorary Citizen; in 2001 he was recognized by Sakai City for his achievements for international exchange; in 2004 he received Commendation for Distinguished Service from Sakai City; in 2005 he received the Governor's Commendation from Osaka Prefecture; and in 2010 he received The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold an Silver Rays from Japan.

He now lives quietly with his daughter and grandson in Sakai City, spending his days walking in his garden. On February 1, 2024 he will be 100 years old. In January the City of Berkeley issued a Certificate of Recognition declaring February 1st Kenzo Yamaji Day. Congratulations dear Yamaji-san. You are much loved by many in Berkeley and Sakai.

