

# Berkeley-Sakai Sister-City Association



## February 2012

### Contents

Annual Meeting Announcement.....	1
Organization.....	2
Welcome to 2012.....	2
Mayor Takeyama's Visit to Berkeley.....	2
Kindergarten Art Exchange.....	2
Art Exchange.....	3
Photography Exchange.....	3
The 19th Senshu Marathon.....	4
Berkeley-Sakai website news.....	4
Girls High-School Softball Exchange Proposal.....	4
The 2012 Goodwill visit to Sakai.....	4

2012 Annual Meeting & Pot Luck

Friday March 23 – 6:30 PM

2240 Summer Street

(Linda & Juri Komendant's house)

Please bring an appetizer, a salad, or side dish to serve 6; Board will supply main course, 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

Directors: Celina Borucki-Gibson, Vicki Chardak, Juri Komendant, Brad McCullough, Roy Nierenberg, Noriko Nishizawa, Sandy Quong, Carolyn Rising, Judith Sanderson, Jay Sordean, Sally Stevens, Whitney Vosburgh

### **Welcome to 2012 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](http://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.*

### **Mayor Osami Takeyama's Visit to Berkeley Linda Komendant**

Mayor Takeyama visited Berkeley August 14 to 16, 2011. The following staff members accompanied the mayor: Takayuki Kanemoto, Associate Manager, Commerce, Industry and Labor Department; Yashuhiro Sakamoto, Assistant Manager, Secretariat Division, Office of the Mayor; Sho Nakazono, Chief Executive Staff, International Division, Culture and Tourism Bureau; and Keizo Ishibashi, Assistant Director, Japan Local Government Center, New York. On Monday, August 15, they met with Mayor Tom Bates and City Council Members Laurie Capitelli, Susan Wengraf, and Jesse Arreguin and afterwards were treated to a fine luncheon at Kiraku (2566B Telegraph Avenue) hosted by the Consulate-General of Japan in San Francisco, Hiroshi Inomata, and by Takemichi Nagaoka, Consul for Intergovernmental Affairs. Linda Komendant guided them on a tour of the Berkeley area, visiting the viewing deck at Lawrence Hall of Science and the sundial at the Berkeley marina dedicated to the people of Sakai. Bonnie Borucki was able to arrange a presentation by Francis at the Ecology Center, and they were able to fit in some last minute gift shopping at the ASUC store and Bancroft Clothing Company. At the end of the day, a BBQ dinner party was hosted by Carolyn and Don Rising at their home.

Mayor Takeyama was originally scheduled to visit Berkeley March 24 & 25 last year, but he had to postpone his visit due to the magnitude 9.0 earthquake and tsunami that hit the Tohoku area of Japan on March 11, 2011. Although it did not affect the Sakai/Osaka area of Japan, cities throughout Japan mobilized their resources to assist the affected areas by sending out teams of firefighters, medical personnel, and other emergency resources.

### **Kindergarten Art Exchange Carolyn Rising**

Our industrious art students supplied more than 40 pieces to be sent to Sakai for the 2012 Kindergarten Art Exchange. Guidance for the kindergarteners was provided this year by Fennis Brown, a coworker of Jennifer Burke from the Young Artists Work Space (YAWS).

Fennis is a young art teacher who 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 arts. She then got a job teaching and assisting art at Prospect Sierra School.

The works sent to Sakai were the students' first experience with figurative drawing in their art class. As they began to create this artwork a few months into the school year, they were already familiar with the materials, but more timid about the subject matter. However, their confidence in the materials and their creative kindergartener minds set them off in lovely and exciting directions.

Using India ink, watercolor, and Prismacolor colored pencils they created scenes from nature, some just of plants, some just of animals, and all from different perspectives. They worked for three weeks on this project, coming into art class each Monday ready to get to work! They began with the India ink, built up their artwork with watercolor in week two, and used colored pencil as the finishing touch!

The artwork is now on display in City Hall in Sakai, and will soon be coming back to Berkeley to be put on display here.

### **Art Exchange** **Vicki Chardak**

The Sakai & Berkeley Bridge Artists are planning an exhibition to coincide with the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our sister city relationship and the Berkeley Goodwill visit in October 2012. The sister city ceremonies will take place October 12 through 14.

Junichi Hotta, who visited Berkeley in the last exchange (see the photos right and below), is in charge of the arrangements. Berkeley board members Whitney Vosburgh and Vicki Chardak are part of the Berkeley Bridge Artists.



### **The Berkeley-Sakai Photography Exchange** **Gary Gibson**

The Berkeley-Sakai Photography exchange was initiated in 2010 to be a new exchange program for Berkeley and Sakai high school students.

The intent of the photo exchange is to provide a cultural bridge between American and Japanese high school students through the medium of digital photography. Digital cameras and email are commonplace in both countries, so the time is right for this type of exchange. The exchange currently takes place between the Berkeley High School digital arts class and the Sakai High School photography club.

This year will be the first year that the full exchange will take place, with photos from both countries displayed on the new Photo Exchange website, designed by Gabriel Berent, the digital arts teacher for Berkeley High School. The theme for the exchange is *Friendship*. Students will document the concept of friendship with photographic portraits that will be shared between the two groups.

The project is scheduled to begin in February 2012 and is expected to be completed by the end of March 2012.

**19<sup>th</sup> Annual Senshu International City Charity Marathon**  
**Linda Komendant**

Once again Sakai has invited a guest runner from Berkeley to participate in the Senshu International City Charity Marathon in this year's 19<sup>th</sup> renewal of the annual event. Our runner this year is Officer Steve Rego, who is Project Manager for a new computer system in the Public Safety Technology Systems division of the Berkeley Police Department. Steve is married and has two children, 12 and 15 years old. Both he and his wife are runners, and she will accompany him to Japan. They leave on February 16<sup>th</sup> and return on February 26<sup>th</sup>, after a 2-day stay in Tokyo. The marathon will take place on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Steve will have a 3-night hotel stay and a 3-night home stay during his time in Sakai. He is scheduled to visit Mikunigaoka kindergarten and Hamadera-Isizu elementary school in Sakai, and sightseeing will include Myoukokuji Temple, Hamono Museum, J-Green, the bicycle museum, a tea ceremony, city museum, and Nintoku-ryo tumulus. Kyoto sightseeing will include Kiyomizu-dera Temple, Sanjusangendo-dera Temple, and Heian-jingu Shrine.

**The Berkeley-Sakai Website Needs Writers**  
**Gary Gibson**

The Berkeley-Sakai Association website (version 2.0) went live in April 2010 and is slowly growing into its role as the major information portal for the BSA. Some members have taken advantage of the ability to add news, pictures, and information, but for the future we need to step things up a bit. Our biggest need in the coming year is content and content creators. In other words, *we need writers*.

In the past year, the website team lost 33% of its volunteer staff. The remaining staff members are hard pressed to keep the site up-to-date in their limited spare time.

We need your help!

If you know how to use Microsoft Word, Apple Pages, Oracle OpenOffice, or any similar app, you too can write articles for the Berkeley-Sakai Association website. If you would like to help, or if you have items of interest to post to the site contact the website team at <bsawebinfo@berkeley-sakai.org>

**Girls High School Softball Exchange Proposal**  
**Linda Komendant**

David Mayer, President of Mayer Laboratories in Berkeley (father of Izzy Mayer, a former Berkeley-Sakai exchange student and another daughter who is currently a Berkeley High School softball player) has proposed a girls high school softball exchange with Sakai. It would be similar to our former student exchanges where Berkeley players would go to Sakai one year and then Sakai players would visit Berkeley the following year. The plan is to contact the City of Sakai and the Sakai Softball Association for confirmation in June or July of 2012 to play in tournaments in August 2013. After we receive a commitment from Sakai, plans can get underway for holding tryouts, selecting a team, fund-raising, arranging airline tickets, tournament schedules, and logistics for visiting Sakai. This is an exciting proposal and a great opportunity for local girls to play softball and become acquainted with Japanese girls.

**2012 Goodwill Visit to Sakai**  
**(45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our sister city relationship)**  
**Juri Komendant**

The Berkeley-Sakai Association is planning a tour to Japan to celebrate 45 years of friendship and goodwill with our sister city Sakai. The total length of the tour will be 16 days, starting from San Francisco, concentrating on Kyushu, the southernmost of the four main Japanese islands, and finishing with a 3-day Goodwill Visit to Sakai City. Anyone interested in traveling with us should contact Juri or Linda Komendant (510-848-8872). The tour is being arranged for a group size of 20. Tour price (double occupancy) is \$5250, including RT air from San Francisco. (Land only – Kagoshima to Sakai – is \$3750; the single supplement is \$885.) Please contact Linda or Juri for the complete tour itinerary and Reservation Application form. This is a unique opportunity to visit Japan and Sakai and we hope you will be able to join us.