

# Berkeley-Sakai Sister-City Association



## February 2015

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2015 Annual Meeting & Pot Luck

Friday March 23 – 6:30 PM

1152 Colusa Ave

(Carolyn and Don Rising's)

Please bring an appetizer, a salad, or side dish to serve 6, plus something to drink; 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 2015 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 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.*

*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.*

### **Student Exchange Linda Komendant**

There is a prospective student exchange opportunity for the Berkeley-Sakai Association. Member Maylou Bartlett is an International Coordinator for the Aspect Foundation, an international student exchange program. She is currently looking for host families to provide a caring, supportive environment for a high school student (15-18) for one year or one semester. The student will attend Berkeley High School. The host family must fill out a detailed application and provide a room, food and some transportation. For more details, visit their website at [www.aspectfoundation.org](http://www.aspectfoundation.org) and/or contact Maylou at [mayshinb@aol.com](mailto:mayshinb@aol.com)

Students are aged 15-18, speak English and have their own spending money and insurance. Host families can be married or single, with or without children.

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

We're delighted to have the students of Libby Trumbull's Thousand Oaks kindergarten class participate in the Berkeley-Sakai Kindergarten Art Exchange again. Most of the art was completed after a class field trip to Tilden Park. Their stories reflected their surprise at encountering a banana slug that felt "jelly squishy" on their walk under the deciduous trees, which were shedding their colorful leaves. They particularly enjoyed the denizens of the Little Farm. They were allowed to feed them "celery, but not bread."

We also sent samples of other art completed prior to Christmas including self portraits reflecting their interests, "I am thankful for . . ." Thanksgiving stories and some colorful marble paintings. This art is usually hung in Sakai's City Hall at the end of February. Berkeley receives art from kindergartners in Sakai in late March and April. At this time we are looking for an appropriate secure public venue to hang it in late March. We have venues for early and mid April already. If you have suggestions, please email Carolyn Rising at [donrising@aol.com](mailto:donrising@aol.com).

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

This September 24 artists from the sister cities Berkeley, CA and Sakai, Japan, came together to exhibit contemporary art at the ACCI Gallery in Berkeley. The show Pacific Bridge: Art from Sister Cities included painters, photographers, sculptors and a glass artist. The artist exchange coincided with the Sakai Goodwill visit; the artists joined in most of the Goodwill events and were also taken to Sonoma Plaza, the Di Rosa, the De Young museum and the Legion of Art in San Francisco. There was an informal exchange at the gallery that Jay Sordean videotaped and local internationally known artist Keiko Nelson translated, and afterwards gave a short talk about her work.

Since 2004 the Berkeley Bridge Artists has had an ongoing cultural dialogue and collaborative exhibitions with the artists of Sakai. As part of the 2014 artist cultural exchange, eight Sakai artists visited Berkeley and participated in home stays, studio, museum and gallery visits.

The Berkeley Bridge Artists were Vicki Chardak, Victoria Veedle, Claire Olivares, Philip Donahue, Jean B. Hearst, Irene Imfeld, Lenore McDonald, Philip Donahue, Whitney Vosburgh, and John Watson. The Japanese artists were Shouzaburou Kawai, Kyoko Suekane, Masaka Takai, Kei Tuchinaga, Hozumi Higashino, Hiroko Yamashita, Mikako Watanabe, Keiko Sawada, Masaru Ooya, Takuya Fujiwara, Masao Fumida, Toyoaki Ikushima and Junichi Hotta.

**The Fifth Annual Berkeley-Sakai Photography Exchange**  
**Gary Gibson**

The Berkeley-Sakai Digital Photography Exchange, or Photo Exchange for short, is now in its fifth year. The Photo Exchange was established in 2010 as a way 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 teachers who manage the exchange believe that art and the art-making process is a universal experience, and that photography is a great lens for seeing into the worlds in which we live. Through the photographs, the students can create a shared awareness of what it means to be a teenager in the two 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.

This has been an exciting project for the participants in the exchange. It has allowed them to gain a more personal look into the lives of fellow high school students in another land.

In previous years, the students have shared photographs on the themes of light, friendship, their respective cities, and faces. This year's theme is "Portraiture," a simple project focused on the art of the portrait. It is hoped is that this will result in photographs that show friends and family, both young and old.

The teachers from Berkeley High School and Sakai High School are currently negotiating the schedule for this year's exchange. The initial proposed schedule has the exchange running from mid-April through May. Submissions will be coordinated by the photography teachers of both schools (via the Dropbox cloud service), and will be displayed in a virtual gallery on the website:

<http://photoexchange.berkeley-sakai.org>

Images from the previous exchanges are still available on the website.

Along with the subject photographs, each student photographer will provide a picture of themselves, along with their name, their age, and a message about their hope for the future. In this way we will promote the Berkeley-Sakai Sister City Association ideal of "Creating a Peaceful World through Culture and Friendship.

Everyone involved is very excited to continue the annual photo exchange.

**22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Senshu International City Charity Marathon**  
**Linda Komendant**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Ssenshu International City Marathon will take place on Sunday, February 15, 2015 in Sakai. This year's runner will be Timothy MacIsaac, a Captain in the Berkeley City Fire Department. He and his wife, Misty, will visit Sakai February 13 to 19 and then extend their time in Japan for one week and visit the Tokyo area. They will have a host family stay, a courtesy visit to Mayor Takeyama, and visit a local school, among other activities. This is their first time visiting Japan, and they are very excited about this opportunity.

**Girl Scout Exchange**  
**Linda Komendant**

The Berkeley-Sakai Girl Scout Exchange will take place late July - early August 2015. Ten girl scouts and four adult Girl Scout leaders will visit Sakai and meet old friends and make new ones. This will be the 34<sup>th</sup> year for this exchange. They started in 1981! The girls participating come from several East Bay cities, not just Berkeley.

**Berkeley-Sakai Association's Facebook page**  
**Celina Borucki-Gibson**

"The Berkeley-Sakai Association's main website is still down, but we have branched out to social media with a Facebook page. <http://berkeley-sakai.org> will take you there. Or, if you're on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com), you can simply search for "Berkeley-Sakai Sister City Association". This Facebook page is a place where people can go to find basic information about our organization. It will also post occasional updates about our events and related topics. If you have any pictures or information you would like to see added, please email: [cbg@berkeley-sakai.org](mailto:cbg@berkeley-sakai.org)"

**Fund-Raising Opportunities**  
**Linda Komendant**

The Berkeley-Sakai Association is exploring different ways of raising funds to support our programs. We have been sustained over the years by our wonderful membership. We do not get any financial support from the City of Berkeley or local groups. One idea is to participate in the Oakland Running Festival the end of March. Sponsored by Corrigan Sports, volunteers man a water stop during the marathon and receive a stipend for their group or organization. We are also working on a new brochure for BSA that we can use to approach local businesses and community groups for their sponsorship and support and let people in the community know who we are and what we do. Also in the works are various classes on miso making, sushi preparation, and furoshiki. Additional funds will be need in the coming years to promote and celebrate the Berkeley-Sakai Sister City 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017. Have an idea? Please let us know. Email: [lindak@berkeley-sakai.org](mailto:lindak@berkeley-sakai.org)

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

2017 is Berkeley-Sakai Association's 50th Anniversary! We want to have a celebration to highlight all the fantastic experiences that the participants in the Association have been a part of since 1967. If you have ideas or are interested in helping to plan events, please let us know ([bsaboard@berkeley-sakai.org](mailto:bsaboard@berkeley-sakai.org)). Come help us Celebrate!