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SEATTLE-KOBE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION



Volume 5, Issue 1

Our Fifth Decade of Friendship

March 2001

Kobe Earthquake Remembrance Ceremony 7th Year Memorial Service

SKSCA held its annual Earthquake Remembrance Ceremony on January 16th at the Kobe Bell at Seattle Center. A moment of silence at exactly 12:46 p.m. was timed to coincide with the exact time of the 1995 earthquake (5:46 a.m. on Jan. 17) and with similar memorial events taking place in Kobe. Special chanting for the Buddhist 7th Year Memorial Service (*Nanakaiki*) was led by priests from the **Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Church** and visiting priests from several cities in Japan. The chanting and bell ringing blended to create a very touching and melodious ceremony.

The newest Seattle Mariner **Ichiro Suzuki** and his wife **Yumiko** also attended, so our event had extensive press coverage in Japan. A



New Mariner Ichiro Suzuki offers a prayer during the Earthquake Memorial Ceremony.

Cherry Blossom Festival SKSCA Kimono Dress-Up Booth

April 20-22, 2001 (Fri.-Sun.)
Seattle Center

It's Cherry Blossom time again, and the SKSCA is eagerly preparing to host its annual Kimono & Yukata Dress-Up Booth at the Cherry Blossom Festival from April 20-22 at the Seattle Center. Our booth is a major highlight of the festival for many families and children! Once again this year we are pleased to have the **Japan-America Society of the State of Washington** as a cooperating sponsor for our booth!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

We need volunteers to staff the booth for the 3 days of the Festival.

letter from **Kazutoshi Sasayama**, Mayor of Kobe, reads: "Ichiro' has been with the [Orix] **Bluewave** for nine years, and was the Pacific League's batting champion for seven consecutive seasons. With the great player joining Seattle's be-



SKSCA President Karin Zaugg prays during the Earthquake Memorial Ceremony, as Hide Sueyoshi, Consul General Fumiko Saiga, and priests from the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Church look on.

loved home team, it is a delight to now see further strengthening of the existing sister club ties between our respective cities' professional baseball teams and the association benefits for the long-established sister city relationship between Kobe and Seattle."

THANK YOU!!

A Big "Thank You" to our Corporate Sponsors!

We greatly appreciate the support of the following businesses and organizations.

American Cultural Exchange
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Seattle Mariners
Seattle Sounders
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Uwajimaya
Yamato Transport USA, Inc.
YMCA of Greater Seattle



Message from the Chair

Karin Zaugg

What with blizzards and earthquakes, Seattle has been having quite a transition to the spring season. The Pacific Northwest was rocked with a 6.8 earthquake on Wednesday, February 28th at 10:54 a.m. We were very lucky that the earthquake was centered so deep underground. The response from friends in Kobe was immediate, from numerous phone calls and e-mail messages, to a letter from Mayor Sasayama to Mayor Schell stating his readiness to lend any support. I think this was an excellent reminder to all of us to take the time to make those earthquake kits and disaster plans with family, friends and co-workers. Luckily our region has learned much from our sister city and its 1995 earthquake.

As this goes to print, I will be in Kobe discussing our 45th anniversary next year. It will be exciting to celebrate our first anniversary in the new millennium. If you have any ideas about a program or exchange that could be tied into our anniversary celebration, please contact us.

Finally, a thank you to all those companies and individuals who have renewed their support in SKSCA, and those who have joined as members for the first time. We greatly appreciate your contributions! Your support helps us be able to continue to promote our sister city relationship with Kobe and to host visitors from our sister city. Best wishes for a happy



Introducing Your New Board Members

Sean Young

International Trade Specialist & Outreach Coordinator at the Hyogo Business & Culture Center responsible for promoting Washington-Hyogo sister-state and the 11 sister-cities we share. Kobe & Seattle are the oldest sister-cities. Also a member of JETAA.

Akiko Kawai

Japan Projects Coordinator, Japan-America Society. I lived in Kobe and worked as a high school teacher for four years until 1993. I am very excited to be on the Board of SKSCA from this year and hope to meet many members.

Iku Skeels

Director of ICCC, International Cross-Cultural Committee. For the first half of my life, I lived in Kobe, and for the other half I've been in Seattle. It's time for me to do something for the two cities I love the most in the world. I'm honored to serve as a board member this year.

Tom Horsley

VP - Operations - YMCA of Greater Seattle. Manage YMCA's relationship with Kobe YMCA which has a 40+ year history. As a new board member, I am looking forward to expanding our involvement with the SKSCA.

Mari Maruyama Carpenter

Director, Curricula & Training at the Laurasian Institution, a non-profit organization dedicated to grassroots people - people exchange programs. My father was born and raised in Kobe and I am looking forward to participating in the SKSCA. I enjoy playing in chamber music groups, and collecting ceramics.



Cece and Japanese friends Sumie Mini, Keiko Kobayashi, Michi Nakanishi, Hiroko Ueshima and Mihoko Kida at the 1997 Anniversary Sister City Tree in Harborland. The tree sure is growing!

News from Former SKSCA President Andy Frank and wife Cece

Andy and Cece write, "In August, 2000 we finished nine years here – amazing. Who would have thought that when we came to Kobe for a one-year stay that it would lead to an almost permanent residency? Cece continues to be the celebrity in our family and in our community. She is the Akafujimai (rice brand) lady. The TV commercial in which she lays a prominent role continues to be shown on TV after a year and a half. People have recognized Cece in Kyoto and on Shikoku as well as in the Kobe area." The Franks continue to enjoy traveling, Japanese festivals, and spreading the word about our sister city relationship wherever they go!

New 2001-2002 Board of Directors Approved!!

SKSCA held a fun new year kick-off event at **Yoshinobo Japanese Restaurant** on February 3, 2001. The new slate of 2001-2002 Board of Directors was installed over a delicious sushi lunch. Our special guests were Mr. **Tomoharu Kamiki** from Kobe, and 1997 Anniversary Events Intern Ms. **Takayo Nagai** from Chicago.

Specially acknowledgements of the contributions of retiring SKSCA board members were made at our annual Holiday Party on December 2, 2000. A big thank you to **Marcy Edwards, Deanna Haley, Michael Kaufman, Frank Montgomery** and **Fred Taucher** for their dedication to the board. Please thank them for their many years of service at the next SKSCA event!

Katsuko Kataoka Brooke

I am a full-time volunteer! I serve on the Board of Eastside Nihon Matsuri Association, Ikebana International, Ohara School of Ikebana, and now the SKSCA. I also volunteer for the Japan-America Society, Bellevue Sister City Association, and JACL – Lake Washington Chapter. Because I lived in the Kobe area between 1989 and 1996, and was there during and after the earthquake, I have very special feelings for Kobe. I am happy that Seattle and Kobe are sister cities so I can do something related to Kobe. I am looking forward to working with all of the SKSCA members.

What's Happening...

Cherry Blossom Festival SKSCA Kimono Dress-Up Booth April 20-22, 2001 (Fri.-Sun.) Seattle Center

The SKSCA's annual Kimono and Yukata Dress-Up Booth is coming soon during the Cherry Blossom Festival at the Seattle Center. Visitors to the booth get to dress in traditional Japanese kimono and yukata, and may have a Polaroid photo taken to remember the day! Volunteers are needed to make this event a success!

Volunteers are asked to sign up for at least a 2-hour time slot and are encouraged to sign up for as many time slots as they'd like.

No Experience Needed!! You don't need to have any kimono-dressing experience to volunteer! We'll teach you everything you need to know (see Practice Session info above)! Even if you're not sure

**Volunteer
Opportunity!!**

about helping dress people up, we always need volunteers to help take photos, handle money, organize people in line, and distribute information on the SKSCA and JAS.

SKSCA Booth Training Kimono-Yukata Dress-Up Practice

April 12, 2001 (Thurs) - 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

At the **Japan-America Society**

World Trade Center West

2200 Alaskan Way, Suite 400

Come and learn (or relearn!) how to tie obi and dress people in yukata and kimono for the SKSCA booth at the Cherry Blossom Festival. We will go over Booth procedures and information regarding our participation in the Festival. If you have any questions about your role as a volunteer, you can have them answered here!

To volunteer, please contact *Miki Yoshizawa* at the Japan-America Society, *Tel: 206-374-0180* or *E-mail: jis-intern@us-japan.org*. Volunteers will receive a Cherry Blossom T-shirt, courtesy of the SKSCA.



Exchanges with Kobe

We've had numerous people traveling between Seattle and Kobe recently. Remember, if you know anyone traveling between our two cities, please let us know!

December 2000

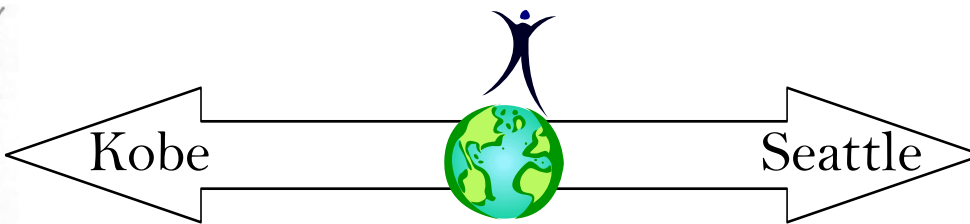
SEAFAIR is pleased to report that last year Mariners' pitcher **Kazuhiro Sasaki** teamed up with **Starbucks Japan** to create a fundraising program for the **SEAFAIR Ambassador Program**. For each of Kazuhiro's "saves" during Mariners games, Starbucks Japan made a contribution to the Ambassador Program.

In December, SEAFAIR President **Beth Wojick**, along with 1991 SEAFAIR Ambassador **Caroline Phan**, traveled to Kobe for a check presentation by Starbucks Japan and **Kazuhiro Sasaki**. **Mayor Sasayama** and **Ryoichi Kimura**, Superintendent of the Board of Education, also participated in the press conference, which was covered extensively by national and local media. Beth Wojick commented, "I was so impressed by the people of Kobe and their ability to get things done. The press conference was huge and the City of Kobe handled it very professionally. SEAFAIR is honored to receive support from Starbucks Japan and Kazuhiro Sasaki." While in Japan, Beth & Caroline met with Mayor Sasayama, local business leaders, and the principal of **Fukiai High School**. Beth & Caroline were escorted by the International Department's Mr. **Yasuyuki Suda**.

SEAFAIR produces the SEAFAIR Ambassador Program's "Global Summit," a two-day symposium on international affairs for high school juniors. This year's Global Summit was held on March 16 & 17 at Seattle Pacific University. From the 150 students attending the Global Summit, SEAFAIR will select 12 students to be SEAFAIR Ambassadors. The SEAFAIR Ambassadors will travel to Kobe in May for an exchange with government officials, business leaders and local high school students. To find out more about this program, visit their website at www.seafair.com.



Ryoichi Kimura, Superintendent of the Board of Education, SEAFAIR Ambassador Caroline Phan, SEAFAIR President Beth Wojick, Mayor Kazutoshi Sasayama, Kazuhiro Sasaki, and Yasuyuki Suda, City of Kobe International Department.



January 2001

Tsering Yuthok, International Programs Coordinator for the **City of Seattle**, represented Seattle in Kobe for a grand kick-off event for Kobe's year of millennium celebrations. As a thank you to the rest of Japan for aid and support in the aftermath of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, runners carrying a torch of thanks will be traveling throughout Japan in the coming year. Tsering shared, "As always, Kobe's hospitality was impeccable. There was a candle



Tsering Yuthok and Kobe Mayor Kazutoshi Sasayama.

lighting memorial service at 5:46 a.m. on the morning of January 17th, the exact time and day of the earthquake in 1995. Citizens young and old participated in this very moving event. The opening ceremony of the conference was held outdoors in a park to accommodate the citizens of Kobe. All the representatives from Kobe's sister cities were introduced individually and were presented

with a colorful bouquet of flowers by kindergarten students who were all born in 1995. It was a very special ceremony."

SKSCA Board of Directors 2001-02

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February 2001

Three Groups Visit from Kobe!

A 10-person delegation led by Kobe City Treasurer **Fumio Sugita** came to Seattle to present a seminar on Kobe's Medical Industry

Development Project at the Westin Hotel on February 5. After the well-tended seminar, the group toured cal companies such as **Immunex** and **Icos** before traveling to Boston.

Congratulations to **Sandy Weiss** and **Takaaki Matsuda** of the **Kobe Trade Information Office** for all of their hard work, and thanks to all who attended.

Mr. **Tomoharu Kamiki** of Kobe City's Multimedia Promotion Division spent several days in Seattle meeting with government officials and community leaders about computer networking and network security issues. He enjoyed seeing Seattle and meeting with SKSCA members at our February 3rd meeting.

Professors **Kenichi Fujita**, **Mikio Kuwahara** and **Kazuhiko Tabata** on a study mission of high technology issues from **Hyogo University** spoke with Seattle municipal government representatives from the Offices of Information Technology and Economic Development.

March 2001

Bill Stafford, Executive Director of the **Trade Development Alliance**, speaks to Kobe government and business leaders about creating a city environment conducive to high tech industries.

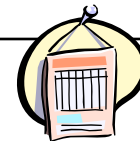
SKSCA President **Karin Zaugg** travels to Kobe to greet government officials and discuss 45th anniversary events for 2002.



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Upcoming Events



Apr. 1 (Sun.) – Welcome Ichiro Event at SAFECO Field, 6 pm - 7:30 pm. Tickets on sale at Uwajimaya locations in Seattle and Bellevue. Don't miss this fun family event and opportunity to welcome Ichiro Suzuki to Seattle! Organized by the Welcome Ichiro Committee. For more information, contact the JACC at 206-320-1010.

Apr. 12 (Thurs.) Cherry Blossom Booth clothing drop-off/volunteer training

Apr. 20-22 – Cherry Blossom Festival – **SKSCA Kimono & Yukata Dress-Up Booth**

May 6-8 – Kobe delegation to attend **Asia Pacific Cities Summit**.

May 6 (Sun.) – Sister City Program with City of Kobe and the 10 other Asian sister city delegations. Watch for information soon about a special sister city event with the Kobe delegation!



JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY

State elementary and high school students.

The **Japan-America Society of the State of Washington**, founded on July 24, 1923 by leaders of the Seattle business, diplomatic, and academic communities, celebrates its 78th birthday in 2001. Upon its founding and to this day, American and Japanese members have acted together to forge closer business and trade ties, to learn about and from each other's cultures, and to improve relations between our two countries.

Except for a brief period during World War II, the Society has remained active in fostering Japan-Washington State trade, business, and cultural activities. Throughout its 78 year history, the Society has sponsored a wide variety of projects, from business and trade delegations to Japan, visits by Japanese ambassadors and other dignitaries, a wide variety of business and trade programs and art and cultural events, and an extensive language and culture educational program — Japan in the Schools — for Washington

During the year 2000, over 40 public programs and special events covering a wide variety of topics were offered to members, making the Society one of the most active international organizations in the state. Also, in 2000, Japan in the Schools took its programs to over 2,500 students.

Over the years, the Society has maintained a close relationship with key governmental and private organizations, including the **Consulate General of Japan** and the **Shunjukai Japan Business Association** of Washington State, and with our region's top companies in all fields. Today, the Society counts over 200 corporate members and over 800 individual members.

To learn about the society, its work and programs, please visit our website:

CORPORATE MEMBER PROFILES

Frontier Geosciences Inc. is a small, innovative environmental research, consulting, and analytical services company that specializes in leading-edge research on the sources, fate, and effects of toxic trace metals in the environment. With their strong biogeochemical background, Frontier consultants pride themselves on giving accurate interpretations of field results, designing experiments, and also designing novel, effective trace metal remediation strategies. Frontier's laboratory technicians and analysts are dedicated to producing accurate, precise, and scientifically cohesive data.

Although Frontier specializes in the entire range of trace metals biogeochemistry and speciation, it is in the field of mercury research where it has made its biggest mark. Frontier began extending its scientific focus beyond mercury research in 1994, developing and enlarging its capabilities for biogeochemical research, environmental monitoring, remediation analyses, compliance monitoring, and toxicity studies. The company has grown exponentially since then. Research groups at Frontier now include atmospheric sciences, wastewater treatment, methods development, aquatic geochemistry, and chemical oceanography and limnology. Most recently, Frontier has added a Quality Assurance (QA) consulting capability. This group is leading the way toward revising QA from rigid, bureaucratic policing to methods based more on holistic, scientific coherence.

Frontier was founded in 1992 and currently employs

approximately 50 scientists, technicians, and administrative staff. It was the founders' goal to establish a sort of "artists' colony" for scientists — a place where intellectual creativity and cooperation could flourish. The founders also envisioned a place where they could develop sophisticated capabilities to enable the most efficient use of society's limited financial commitment to environmental improvement. With the help of a growing, dedicated staff, Frontier's founders worked hard to create a workplace that is inviting and stimulating.

Frontier's business philosophy is progressive. It has been the recipient of awards from two Washington State governors for its hiring practices, and its human resources managers maintain an aggressive affirmative action program. The highest paid employees at Frontier are not permitted to make more than three times the pay of the lowest paid employees. Volunteer work is encouraged among the staff, and those who choose to do so are compensated at half their normal pay rate for up to 200 volunteer hours per year. Approximately five percent of Frontier's profits are contributed to philanthropic causes such as environmental improvement and conservation, medical research, programs to combat hunger and homelessness, and support of the arts in the local community.

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New Membership/Membership Renewal/Volunteer Form

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Company _____

Address _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Country _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Please enclose your mailing label if there are any changes. Thank you!!

SKSCA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, IRS tax identification # 23-7034425.

Membership dues are a tax deductible donation.

Individual \$30 Family: \$50 Senior/Student: \$15 Corporate: \$125

_____ I am a **current** member renewing my dues and I have enclosed \$_____.

_____ I am a **new** member and I have enclosed \$_____.

_____ I am interested in volunteer opportunities. Please send me more information.

Please mail this form and a check to:

SKSCA c/o Fred Taucher, Corporate Computer Inc., 11300 25th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98125



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