

姉妹都市

SEATTLE-KOBE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

Volume 9, Issue 3

Our Fifth Decade of Friendship

November 2005

Seattle-Kobe Female Jazz Vocalist Competition Winners Visit Kobe

Kelley Johnson Shares Impressions of Kobe



2004 and 2005 Kobe Jazz Vocal Queens Yoshika and Shoko perform with Kelley Johnson, and Isabella du Graf in Kobe.

When I heard that the SKSCA was hosting a jazz vocal competition that would send the winner to Japan, I hopped on board instantly for the ride. I really dislike competitions, but the flight was paid for and I could get to Japan! And there would be an audience to sing for! I've toured many countries as a professional jazz singer (China, Eastern Europe, and Russia, as well as Central Asia for the U.S. State Department), but I had been chomping at the bit for an opportunity to see Japan, become acquainted with the people, and explore the Japanese love for jazz, firsthand. This trip provided all that and more.

My husband, jazz pianist **John Hansen**, and I, were treated with the utmost patience and respect, and enjoyed our hosts, **Yoshio** and **Yumi Imai** and their volunteer staff and friends, more than they could possibly know. After eating the best meal of the entire trip in an awesome funky little restaurant, we slept off the jetlag to wake to our first day of sightseeing in Kobe. The sweetness of our hosts was matched by the impeccable beauty of this modern city that looks very much like Seattle. We looked for evidence of the devastation of the earthquake but couldn't see it. Though it had caused the deaths of many and loss of businesses, homes and quality of life

(Continued on page 3)

SKSCA Shinenkai New Year's Party

January 14, 2006 (Sat.)

6:30-8:30 pm

At the home of Tish Johnson
10907 "c" GlenAcres Drive S.



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Come join SKSCA members and friends to kick off the new year in style! We've moved our annual holiday potluck to January rather than December this year, but we'll still be gathering to enjoy food and fun conversation with fellow SKSCA friends. Everyone is welcome — Please bring a friend! You can sign-up for a potluck dish with **Stacey Jehlik** (stacers@speakeasy.net or **206-525-7991**). See you there!

(Directions on page 2)

Kobe Earthquake Remembrance Ceremony

January 16, 2006 (Mon.), 12:15 pm

The SKSCA will hold its annual Kobe Earthquake Remembrance Ceremony at the Kobe Bell on Monday, January 16, 2006, at 12:15 p.m. The group will meet at the Kobe Bell on the **Seattle Center** grounds (north of the International Fountain and south of the Opera House) at 12:15 p.m., start the remarks at 12:30 p.m. and conclude with a moment of silence and ringing of the Kobe Bell at 12:46 pm, which corresponds to the minute of silence and ceremonies taking place in Kobe in the early morning of the 17th.



Members sign bamboo candle holders at 2005 ceremony.

A Big THANK YOU To Our Corporate Sponsors!

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

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YMCA of Greater Seattle

THANK YOU!



Message from the Chair

Winter Greetings from all of us at SKSCA!

After a very busy summer and fall, we're slowing down a bit as the days get colder.

I would like to thank all of the SKSCA board members and members who have energetically helped host guests, organize events, and make our events happen during the busy summer season – thank you!

Thank you also for the warm wishes for my wedding this summer. It was very special to have friends from Kobe attend the ceremony, and so many people sending us good thoughts from Japan and around Seattle, too.

We decided to move our annual holiday party from December to January this year. Please save the date for Saturday, January 14, 2006, and plan on joining us for a potluck dinner at the home of board member **Tish Johnson**. We'll be talking about 50th anniversary event plans for 2007 and would love to have you involved. Please join us for this fun event to kick off the new year!

Already in the works for the 50th anniversary are a trade mission delegation to Kobe in May 2007 in conjunction with the **Trade Development Alliance**, and a large exhibition of art from the Kobe City Museum at the **Seattle Art Museum** in October 2007. The board is starting to work on our anniversary history book project, and we recently sat down with former **Mayor Gordon Clinton** to talk about his many years of Kobe memories. If you are a part of a group or organization that is planning something with your Kobe counterparts, or have photos and memories to contribute to the history book, please make sure to contact us.

As you are doing your end-of-year giving, we appreciate your thinking of SKSCA! Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for a Joyous New Year as we enter into the Year of the Dog!

Karin Zang Black

To see the current list of board members, visit

www.skscsa.org



(**SHINENKAI DIRECTIONS** *Continued from page 1*)

10907 "c" GlenAcres Drive S., Seattle, WA 98168
Tel: 206-766-9288

From I-5 north or south, take the Michigan Street exit. At Michigan turn right (west) to the 1st Ave Bridge. Follow signs to cross over the 1st Ave Bridge. Once across, you will be on Hwy 509 heading south. Continue South to the top of the hill. Take the Glendale Way/5th Ave exit. At the stop sign, go under the highway by turning left. When you come to a 4-way stop, go straight through it and take the first left into GlenAcres Golf and Country Club. At the gate, push the button for "T Johnson" (the phone will ring in Tish's unit and she will open the gate).

Parking: There is lots of parking at the gate and people can walk in. There is also street parking near the condo. There will be signs directing people to more parking if necessary.

Art from Kobe to be Exhibited at Seattle Art Museum in 2007

Mimi Gates, the Illsley Ball Nordstrom Director of the **Seattle Art Museum**, visited **Tatsuo Yada**, Mayor of Kobe, at Kobe City Hall on October 7. Despite the mayor's busy schedule just before the announcement of the mayoral election, he spent thirty minutes discussing with Gates an exhibition which is scheduled to be on display at the Seattle Art Museum (SAM) in 2007.

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Kobe and Seattle, the Seattle Art Museum has planned a grand exhibition featuring about 100 masterpieces from the Japanese art collection of the **Kobe City Museum**. The Kobe City Museum is a prestigious museum known worldwide for its unique Japanese collection created under the influences of western arts and cultures. Gates explained to the mayor that the Seattle Art Museum wants to borrow 16th-19th century Japanese art, especially the masterpieces of Namban art (Japanese art created under the influence of Portugal and Spain) and Komo art (created under the influence of Holland) for the exhibition. The exhibition will depict wonderful stories of cultural exchange between Japan and the western world from that period. Moreover, this exhibition should be a memorable one for the Seattle Art Museum as the first big exhibition after the opening of the new museum building downtown in early 2007. She then asked him for his support of this exhibition. Mayor Yada replied, "We are proud to have the Namban and Komo art collection in Kobe. It is an honor for Kobe to exhibit its collection at the Seattle Art



Mayor Yada meets with Mimi Gates.

Museum in this memorable year. I expect this wonderful project to further promote the relationship between our two cities."

On the same day, **Mimi Gates** and **Yukiko Shirahara**, John A. McCone Foundation Associate Curator of

Asian Art in charge of this exhibition, visited **Mr. Nishikawa Kazuki**, Director of the Kobe City Museum, who also confirmed his support of this exhibition. The exhibition, "Japan Enduring the West: 16th-19th Century Japanese Art from Kobe City Museum" (working title) is scheduled to be held from October 2007 to early January 2008. SAM plans to publish a full-color exhibition catalogue and organize a scholarly symposium and various other programs during the exhibition period.

-by Yukiko Shirahara

SAVE THE DATE!!

UPCOMING EVENTS in Year of the Dog



- Jan. 14.....Shinenkai New Year's Potluck Party
- Jan. 16.....Kobe Earthquake Remembrance Ceremony
- March (TBA)Farewell party for KTIO's Yamamoto-san
- Mar. 24.....Japanese Speech & Skit Context (watch www.hyogobcc.org for details)
- Apr. 21-23.....Cherry Blossom Festival

Expanding Friendships My First Visit to Kobe

Although I have lived in Japan for many years and traveled to many parts of the country, I had never spent time in our sister city of Kobe. Fortunately, that all changed this last September. I was honored to visit this beautiful sister city for the first time, a trip that was long overdue!



I have often heard from many of you that Seattle and Kobe look and feel very similar. Now I can finally agree with those who have visited and lived in this beautiful city. From the 24th floor of Kobe City Hall I saw a breath-taking panoramic view of Kobe spread out

along the seashore; another Emerald City.

During my time at Kobe City Hall I was able to meet with **Ueda-san** and **Yamamura-san** of the International Division. They shared with me the history of the new Kobe airport, and the dream of developing it into an international airport. I also learned that the bi-pass that runs across Kobe's waterfront was

built after the Hanshin earthquake and modeled after Seattle's Alaskan Viaduct. I had no idea how intertwined our two cities have become over the years.

I was particularly impressed with the public transportation system in Kobe. Not only was there a JR line for trains, but also a Hankyu line, and yet another Hanshin line for subway/trains. I'm sure many of you would agree that we could use an expansive and effective system similar to Kobe. We have a lot to learn from our sister city as well.



Erin Erickson with Eri Yagi

One of the highlights of my time in Kobe was finally meeting **Eri Yagi**, founder and president of the **Kobe-Seattle Sister City Association**. I can tell that Eri has a lot of enthusiasm and ideas for the Kobe-Seattle sister city relationship and I look forward to working together with her and our friends in Kobe to make these dreams a reality.

Now that I have seen the city that is closest to my own hometown, I hope to continue to strengthen our sister city relationships and the long-lasting friendships between members of our communities.

Seattle Vocalists Strike the Right Chord

The Kobe Jazz Vocal Queen Contest Special Event held on October 1 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and the 100th anniversary of the birth of jazz in Japan was a great success. Following opening remarks delivered by **Tatsuo Yada**, Mayor of Kobe, and Mayor of Seattle, **Greg Nickels** (whose message was presented by SKSCA member **William Montgomery**), the performances began in earnest.

The performers included all six of the Kobe Jazz Vocal Queens, and **Kelley Johnson** and **Isabella Du Graf**, the two winners of the first Seattle-Kobe Female Jazz Vocalist Competition. Each vocalist performed for about 20 minutes, and for the final number all eight vocalists hit the stage together for a rousing version of "All of Me."

Both Kelley and Isabella were excited to represent Seattle and the SKSCA in Kobe. They were impressed by how polished the Japanese vocalists and musicians were. Among the musicians who performed with them was Japanese jazz legend, pianist **Minoru Ozone**. Isabella said with enthusiasm, "I love it here in Kobe!"

Various parties came together to make this all possible.

On the Seattle side, we are grateful to **Dimitriou's Jazz Alley** for co-hosting the Seattle Kobe Female Jazz Vocalist Competition in April 2005; the **Kobe Information and Trade Office**, the **Hyogo Business and Culture Center**, and **Sankei Travel** for myriad support and travel arrangements for Ms. Johnson and Ms. Du Graf. On the Kobe side, we are grateful to the **City of Kobe**, **Shinkaichi Music Street**, **Art Farmer Company**, and **Dentsu**. Special thanks go to **Yumi Imai** who served as a judge in our April competition and arranged and took care of everyone while in Kobe. Thanks Yumi!



Yumi Imai, Kelley Johnson, William Montgomery, and Isabella du Graf.

- by *William Montgomery*

Erin Erickson

Partner Organization Liaison, SKSCA Board

Project Coordinator, Hyogo Business & Cultural Center

www.hyogobcc.org

(KELLEY JOHNSON'S REFLECTIONS Continued from page 1) for many, I found it amazing how resilient people are and how the wounds of a catastrophe like that, only 10 years ago, were not more visible to the eye everywhere.

I was brought to Japan, along with high school winner **Isabella du Graf**, to perform with all six of Kobe's past Jazz Vocal Queen Competition winners. It was an honor to share the stage with such great talent and to participate in a flawlessly produced show that showcased everyone so nicely. All of the singers were really good, hardworking, and professional. I thought some were excellent. I only wish that we all would have had some down time to hang out more casually away from the performance. Afterwards, everyone went home!

I sold a ton of CDs in Kobe and would love to go back and sing for that audience again...maybe do some teaching as part of an exchange. I would hope to see the same people who were so warm and get to know them better. This program provided a nice window into a world I'd like to know more about. We went on to several other cities over the course of two weeks, and were invited to sit in and play here and there. I'm very grateful to have been a guest of the SKSCA and to have been given such a great opportunity and experience.

Special thanks to **Yoshio** and **Yumi Imai**, **William Montgomery**, **Karin Zaugg Black**, **Mari Maruyama**, **Mayor Greg Nickels**, and all of the sponsors whose donations and financial assistance to this organization make cultural exchange possible.

Kelley Johnson

Jazz Vocalist, U.S. Jazz Ambassador

kelley@kelleyjohnson.com

.....
Kelley's new recording "Music is the Magic" is available at www.kelleyjohnson.com. She also has a mailing list so you can learn about performances and vocal jazz workshops!

High School Program



SEAFAIR's five high school Ambassadors from Kobe with their teacher (far left) and SKSCA Chair Karin Zaugg Black.

As a part of the SEAFAIR Ambassador Program, five 1st and 2nd year high school students and one teacher came from Kobe this past September. Each year, SEAFAIR coordinates a sister-city exchange wherein Seattle high school students travel to Kobe for a re-

warding and educational experience, and high school students from Kobe visit our city in the fall. The Kobe Ambassadors' goal as a group was to use this experience to further their knowledge of American culture and their English speaking ability.

While in Seattle, the students were able to stay with host families and learn about daily American life, visited large corporations such as **Microsoft** and **Starbucks**, and toured several Seattle landmarks. They also had opportunities to teach American students in World History and Japanese classes at both **Franklin** and **Roosevelt High Schools** about Japanese language, culture and high school life.

They also gained insight into our American political system by touring City Hall and meeting **Mayor Greg Nickels**.

Unfortunately, this program has recently suffered a lack of funding that made it impossible for students from Seattle to travel to Kobe this year. However, it is a wonderful and worthwhile sister city exchange program that exposes many young adults to cultural programs, international business, and government issues that make them better world citizens. If you would like to contribute to enabling this program to continue to provide life changing opportunities for generations to come, please contact **Karin Zaugg Black, 206-733-9810, karin-zaugg@yahoo.com**.

- by Devin Tokizawa



The SEAFAIR high school ambassadors visited two Seattle high schools.

SEAFAIR Student Ambassadors

Excerpts from the Ambassadors' Letters

... My first impression of Seattle was that there were many people who were really kind and gave us a warm welcome. My host family was so kind and they treated me as a member of the family. I was very happy that the host family was so nice. And all of the places that we went sightseeing are strong in my memory. Especially the Ballard Locks, Space Needle, and the visit to two high schools will strongly stay in my mind. The visit to the headquarters of Starbucks was the main event of this trip for us and it surprised me because the office was really large-scale and the employees dressed smartly... In conclusion, I want to give all of my thanks to all the people who made every effort to make this trip possible. I had many precious experiences on this trip and nothing could be replaced. (*Shunsaku Koyama*)

... Before I went to Seattle, I had a narrow view of the world. But now, I realize that world is, in fact, a very big place. Thanks to my host family's generous hospitality, I had a great time. I was able to learn more about the existing relationship between Kobe and Seattle. I think that Kobe and Seattle are similar in many ways... I'd like to go back to Seattle in the future because this experience changed my way of thinking. I now think everything more globally. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to broaden my cultural awareness!! (*Kenta Masuda*)

... My dream was going to the US. So my dream came true!! My host family was so kind to me.... I went to many cool places with them. University of Washington was so wonderful! I thought, "I want to study abroad here very much!" This became my next dream. I visited 2 schools. Their classes were so interesting. Students were very friendly and I could enjoy talking with them. On this trip, I could have had a chance to talk with a homeless. Now I make a report about homeless of Kobe and I am interested in them. I could listen to a real life of American homeless. Compared to American and Japan, I found that American has better than Japanese system to take care them. The last night... I was looking back on my trip and I decided to come back Seattle for sure someday.... I'll never forget my memory of Seattle... Thank you everyone. So see you again!! (*Tomomi Kunisada*)

College Program

Seattle welcomed two Kobe student ambassadors this summer to take part in our annual SEAFAIR festivities. **Mr. Shusaku Hari** (23), and **Ms. Akiko Makino** (20) spent five nights with host families **Masaye Nakagawa** and **John & Karen Loff** as they explored Seattle and studied American culture. Student ambassadors have been traveling to Seattle since 1992 to take part in SEAFAIR.

The students enjoyed a variety of activities with their families and volunteers. Following lunch at the top of the Columbia Tower, a downtown tour included Frappuccinos at the original Starbucks, the Space Needle, and a Mariners game. The students also attended the SEAFAIR Japanese princess coronation and participated in the SEAFAIR parade. "On the afternoon we were in the parade and we waved. Everyone waved to us and welcomed us. They said, 'Welcome to America,'" wrote Ms. Makino after returning to Japan.

"Shusaku seemed to have a really good time," said host Masaye Nakagawa. Both of the students joined in a Taiko practice session one night where Shusaku experienced Taiko for the first time. "I never thought of playing Taiko in Japan and it was very exciting," he said. The students studied not only American

and Japanese culture, but some Japanese-American history as well. Both students went to Bainbridge Island, strolled through the gardens of the Bloedel Reserve and walked to a historic marker that memorialized the first evacuation of Japanese-Americans into concentration camps during WWII. "This was such a rewarding and positive experience," said host Karen Loff who now hopes to one day travel to Japan. "Everyone learned so much from each other."

The SKSCA would like to thank all the volunteers and both host families who helped make this a great experience.

Some parting words from Ms. Makino: "At the end I had a really really good time with you guys. You guys are so kind. I miss you. I love Seattle. I think Seattle is similar to my city Kobe. I want you guys to visit Kobe sometime. I can't thank you enough. Thanks a lot!!"

- by Nathan Eddings



Shusaku Hari, Mizuho Akashika (on another exchange program), and Akiko Makino on Bainbridge Island.

CORPORATE MEMBER PROFILE

For seven decades, the Seattle Art Museum (SAM) has been a leading visual arts institu-



SEATTLE ASIAN ART MUSEUM
SEATTLE ART MUSEUM
OLYMPIC SCULPTURE PARK

accommodate the museum's rapidly growing collections, which include

tion in the Pacific Northwest. When SAM opened its doors in Volunteer Park in 1933, the museum's collection focused primarily on Asian art. Today, the collection now numbers approximately 23,000 objects, and has matured into a world-class arts institution with a global perspective. SAM has embarked on an unprecedented period of growth and development with two monumental projects: a 300,000-square-foot expansion of the downtown museum, designed by Allied Works Architecture, and a new 8.5-acre waterfront sculpture park created by Weiss/Manfredi Architects.

Currently closed for reroofing, the original facilities in Volunteer Park were renovated in 1994 as the Seattle Asian Art Museum (SAAM). Reopening on January 14, 2006, the Seattle Asian Art Museum will serve as the hub of activity for the Seattle Art Museum in 2006. After the special exhibition, *Louis Comfort Tiffany: Artist for the Ages* closes on January 4, 2006, the Seattle Art Museum downtown will close its doors in anticipation of a newly expanded facility, which will open in Spring 2007.

The phased expansion of the downtown building will

Northwest Coast Native American, African, European, Decorative, Modern and Contemporary Art, as well as its exhibition programs and audiences while increasing downtown's cultural and economic vitality.

In mid-2006, the museum will open the Olympic Sculpture Park, a new park to be situated on Seattle's central waterfront. The park will feature exhibitions of outdoor sculpture. SAM's first acquisition for the park, Alexander Calder's monumental *Eagle* (1971), is temporarily on view in front of SAAM.

Seattle Art Museum

100 University St., Seattle, WA 98101-2902
Tel. 206-625-8900

Seattle Asian Art Museum

1400 East Prospect St., Volunteer Park
Seattle, WA 98112-3303
Tel. 206-625-8900

www.seattleartmuseum.org

Kobe's Fukujyu Sake Big Hit at Sushi & Sake Fest

At this year's annual Sushi & Sake Fest organized by the Japanese-American Chamber of Commerce, the Kobe Trade Information Office and SKSCA came together in a joint effort to feature the city of Kobe and promote the upcoming 50th anniversary celebrations in 2007. Decked out in Happi Coats, SKSCA members shared information about Kobe with visitors. Also featured at the Kobe booth was Mr. Yoshitaka Yasufuku, executive manager of Kobe Shu-Shin-Kan Breweries, Ltd, who joined to showcase their national brand of Fukujyu Sake. This brewery was established in 1751 and is located in the Nada district of Kobe. This area is widely known as the best for the production of Japanese sake due to the quality of the locally grown Japanese rice and the purity of the



water, which is filtered from streams high in the Rokko Mountains. This combination is essential to the brewing of sake. The Fukujyu brand was a big hit among those who visited the Kobe booth to try it. Mr. Yasufuku hopes that Fukujyu sake will

soon be on shelves in Seattle for everyone to enjoy. To learn more about the Kobe Shu-Shine Kan Brewery, visit www.shushinkan.co.jp/guide/english.html.

- by Devin Tokizawa

Akemashite.com

Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu
Happy New Year!

Ever had a hard time finding traditional Japanese New Year's postcards (*nengajo*) in the US? This year, the search will be much easier! Nengajo postcards for 2006 (Year of the Dog) can now be found at www.akemashite.com. Five different dog-inspired designs are available (including those shown on pages 1, 2 and 5)



© Akemashite.com

The New Year is a very special holiday in Japan, arguably the most celebrated of the Japanese holidays. An important part of the holiday festivities is the tradition of exchanging New Year's postcards, called *nengajo*. Much like Christmas cards in the US, *nengajo* are exchanged between family and friends, as well as between business associates. Unlike Christmas cards, however, *nengajo* are held by the post office throughout December so that they can all be delivered on the morning of January 1.

Nengajo postcards may feature a vast array of images and designs, but often highlight the animal for the year from the Chinese zodiac. They can be used to share updates on important life events and activities during the past year, or simply to send good wishes for the new year. To see the designs available for 2006, visit Akemashite.com online!

www.akemashite.com

New Membership/Membership Renewal/Volunteer Form

November 2005

Name _____

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 Stacey Jehlik, 3115 NE 65th St, Seattle, WA 98115



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