



## SEATTLE-KOBE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

Volume 11, Issue 1

Celebrating 50 Years of a Vibrant Sister City Relationship

April 2007

### 32nd Annual Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival

April 20-22 (Fri.-Sun), 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

The 32nd Annual admission-free Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival will be held April 20-22, 2007 at the Seattle Center.

Spend the weekend at the Cherry Blossom Festival and see the fun things going on with hands on activities for the whole family! The traditional beauty and grace of the festival will include traditional dance and music, colorful costumes, martial arts, tea ceremonies, and entertaining educational activities. The SKSCA will continue its tradition of hosting a kimono-yukata dress-up booth in cooperation with the **Japan-America Society**.



The festival is presented by Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival Committee, which founded the festival in appreciation of the gift of 1,000 cherry trees to the city by Japanese Prime Minister **Tadeo Miki** in commemoration of the nation's bicentennial in 1976.



This year, the SKSCA is pleased to bring 2006 Kobe Jazz Vocal Queen **Mami Nishida** back to Seattle in honor of the 50th anniversary of our Seattle-Kobe relationship

to perform at the festival, as well as at the Seattle Sister Cities Reception on April 19.

Mami won the 7th Kobe Jazz Vocal Queen contest produced by Shinkaichi Music Street in 2006 and performed in Seattle at **Dimitriou's Jazz Alley** in September 2006 as part of the SKSCA's jazz exchange with Kobe. The 300+ audience was im-

pressed by her sonorous voice, moving Japanese ballads, and rousing jazz tunes. With only an hour to meet with Mami prior to the performance, the **Bill Anschell Trio** supported Mami as if they had been working together for years.

We're delighted to have Mami back in Seattle for these

### Mami Returns to Seattle for April Celebrations!

Come hear 2006 Kobe Jazz Vocal Queen **Mami Nishida** perform at the Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival!



**April 21, 2007 (Sat.) 6:00 pm**  
Seattle Center, Center House stage

**April 22, 2007 (Sun.) 2:00 pm**  
Outside of Fisher Pavilion at the Seattle Center

### General Membership Meeting & Pre-Trip Orientation

**May 6 (Sun), 4:30-6:30 pm**

We'll be gathering for a general membership meeting and pre-trip orientation on Sunday, May 6, 2007, from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at North Seattle Community College, Room ED 2843A in the Education Building. Come hear about plans for hosting delegations from Kobe in July and October,

*(Continued on page 4)*

### A Big THANK YOU to Our Corporate Sponsors!

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

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Yamato Transport USA

## Message from the Chair



It's here! Spring is here, and so is the 50th anniversary of our sister city relationship! The celebration is underway, and will continue throughout 2007. This year is sure to be a busy one!

We are very pleased to welcome back 2006 Kobe Jazz Vocalist Queen **Mami Nishida** to perform at the Sister Cities Reception on April 19, and the Cherry Blossom Festival on April 20-22, 2007.

The 50th anniversary delegation will be traveling to Kobe May 17 -23, 2007, and will be joined by members of the Study Mission traveling to Fukuoka with the **Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce and Trade Development Alliance**.

We look forward to two large delegations coming from Kobe this year. **Eri Yagi**, Chair of the Kobe-Seattle Sister City Association, will lead a delegation during the last week of July for the Seafair Parade, and **Mayor Tatsuo Yada** will lead another delegation during the second week of October to coincide with the opening of the "Japan Envisions the West" exhibit of art from the Kobe City Museum at the **Seattle Art Museum**.

We are also working on our anniversary history project. If you have photos and memories to contribute to the history project, please be sure to contact us. We want to include your stories!

As always, we could not continue our exchanges and programs without your support. Membership invoices for 2007 will be mailed soon – we thank you in advance for renewing and donating to SKSCA! The SKSCA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and donations are tax-deductible.

Spring and summer will be a busy time for us – we hope to see you at the Cherry Blossom Festival, the General Membership Meeting on May 6, or another event soon. Please visit our website for the latest details on upcoming events at [www.seattlekobe.org](http://www.seattlekobe.org).

Warmly,

*Karin Zaugg Black*

## Annual Earthquake Remembrance Ceremony in Snow

The SKSCA held its 12th annual Kobe Earthquake Remembrance Ceremony at the Kobe Bell on January 16, 2007, to commemorate the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.

In honor of the Buddhist tradition that places importance on the start of the 13th year since the earthquake victims died, the SKSCA was honored to have **Reverend Hoshu Matsubayashi**, Rimban of the **Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple** give a special meditation and invocation

as part of the ceremony. Following brief remarks by SKSCA Chair **Karin Zaugg Black**, Consul General **Kazuo Tanaka**, and Kobe Trade Information Office Director **Kenji Uematsu**, participants lit candles for a moment of silence and rang the Kobe Bell in memory of those who perished in the 1995 disaster at 12:46 p.m. This corresponds to the minute of silence and ceremonies taking place in Kobe in the early morning of the 17th.



*Consul General Tanaka gives remarks as Matsubayashi Sensei and others look on.*

## 3rd Annual Seattle-Kobe Female Jazz Vocalist Audition

The SKSCA held its 3rd Annual Seattle-Kobe Female Jazz Vocalist Audition on March 19, 2007 to select one high school-aged and one adult female jazz vocalist from the greater Seattle area to send to



*Jazz Audition Winners Emily Meyer and Jennifer Hoyt.*

*Photo by Sugako Toda, The North American Post.*

Kobe, Japan to be a guest singer at the 8th Annual Kobe Jazz Vocal Queen Contest in May. This year's event attracted over 30 participants, and the four high school finalists and seven adult finalists performed at Dimitriou's Jazz Alley to a crowded house of over 250 people.

This year's winners are **Jennifer Hoyt** in the high school division, and **Emily Meyer** in the adult division. Jennifer and Emily will be guest vocalists at the 8th Annual Kobe Jazz Vocal Queen Contest held on the weekend of May 19-20, 2007 at KAVC Hall in Kobe. We are very excited that our 50th anniversary delegation will be in

Kobe during this event, and that some delegation members will have a chance to see them perform.

A big thank you to all who helped make this event possible, especially coordinator **Mari Maru-**

**SANKEI TRAVEL**  
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**yama Carpenter** and the panel of judges: **Milt Hamlin**, Arts and Entertainment writer for Seattle Gay News, La Voz and other area papers; **Yumi Imai** from Art-Farmer, Inc, the organization that organizes the Kobe Jazz Queen Contest; **Bruce Robb**, longtime

SKSCA board member; **Gordon Todd**, local announcer and jazz music director for radio station KBCS 91.3 FM; and **Jim Wilke**, producer and host of Jazz after Hours on Public Radio International and Jazz Northwest on radio station KPLU.

Thank you to **Consul General Kazuo Tanaka** for welcoming everyone to the event, and to last year's adult division

winner, **Gail Pettis**, for sharing her impressions of Kobe.

A special *arigato* to sponsors **Dimitriou's Jazz Alley**, **Sankei Travel**, and supporter **Kobe Trade Information Office**, our screeners **Mark Carpenter**, **Adam Thompson**, and **Naoki Inumaru**, and all the volunteers who helped make this audition go smoothly. In Kobe, we thank the **City of Kobe**, **Shinkaichi Music Street**, **Art Farmer Company**, **Dentsu**, and especially **Yoshio and**



DIMITRIOU'S  
*jazz alley*  
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**50th Sister City  
& 40th Sister Port  
Anniversary  
Celebrations in  
Kobe  
May 17-23, 2007**



**Volunteers Needed  
for the 50th!**

Hosting two delegations this year will be a lot of fun, and there are plenty of opportunities for members to get involved! Can you help interpret when the visitors from Kobe are here? Would you be willing to serve as a driver, or host a lunch in your home? Are you up to the challenge of marching with us in the Seafair parade with some local taiko drummers? Would you be able to help out on the planning committee? Please contact **Stacey Jehlik (206-523-2220)** or **stacers@speakeasy.net** to register as a volunteer so we can contact you when specific needs arise!

Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels will lead a 70-person Seattle delegation to Kobe to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our sister city relationship and the 40 anniversary of our sister port relationship!

The delegation will be commemorating our anniversaries with ceremonies, tours, a symposium on sister city relations, and more.

Highlights include learning about Kobe's Medical Industry Project and sake industry, taking a boat tour of the Port of Kobe, meeting with Kobe Chamber of Commerce companies, and previewing some art pieces from the upcoming Kobe Art Exhibit "Japan Envisions the West: 16th-19th Century Japanese Art from Kobe City Museum" which will be traveling to Seattle in October 2007.

The delegation will be commemorating the anniversaries by planting a tree in the Seattle Forest of the Kobe Arboretum, giving the Kobe Airport two custom art pieces by local artist **Koryn Rolstad**, and opening a 50th Photo Exhibition of Seattle, including photos by local architect **Roger Williams**. Some members of the group will also attend the Kobe Queen Jazz Contest and hear local Seattle vocalists (and our jazz audition winners) **Jennifer Hoyt** and **Emily Meyer** perform (see page 3).

If you would like to join the delegation, please contact **Karin Zaugg Black** at **karinzaugg@yahoo.com** or **206-733-9810**.

For more information about the 50th anniversary events, visit [www.seattlekobe.org](http://www.seattlekobe.org) and the Kobe Trade Information Office website at [www.cityofkobe.org](http://www.cityofkobe.org).



**2007 Events Calendar**

- Apr 19 Seattle Sister Cities Reception featuring Kobe Jazz Vocalist Mami Nishida
- Apr 20-22 Cherry Blossom Festival featuring performances by Kobe Jazz Vocalist Mami Nishida
- May 6 SKSCA General Membership Meeting & Pre-Trip Orientation
- May 11-19 International Study Mission to Fukuoka and Kita Kyushu
- May 17-23 Delegation to Kobe led by Mayor Greg Nickels
- May 24 - Jun 17 Seattle International Film Festival. SKSCA will be hosting a film
- July 26-31 Kobe delegation visits Seattle  
7/28 (Sat): Seafair Torchlight Parade  
7/29 (Sun): Mayoral Reception at Olympic Sculpture Park

**SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS**

We'll be hosting a large delegation from Kobe the last week of July. Come and celebrate with us at these two fun events!

**Seafair Torchlight Parade**

July 28, 2007 - 7:30 pm

SKSCA and a large Kobe Delegation will march in the parade!

**10th Annual Kobe Day with the Mariners**

July 30, 2007 - 7:05 pm

Come cheer on the Mariners with SKSCA and the Kobe Delegation! We'll be a 650-person cheering section on the 100 level.

**FALL HIGHLIGHTS**

Kobe Mayor Tatsuo Yada will lead a delegation from Kobe the second week of October to celebrate the Seattle Art Museum exhibit opening.

**Seattle Art Museum Exhibit**

"Japan Envisions the West"

Oct 15, 2007 - Jan 6, 2008

The Kobe City Museum will loan 16th - 19th Century "namban," or "western-influenced" art works to the Seat-

- August 8 7/30 (Mon): 10th Annual Kobe Day with the Mariners: Kobe Sister City Night
- Sept 8-9 "Japan Envisions the West" Preview Event - Kobe and Hyogo sake tasting event with the Seattle Art Museum & Uwajimaya
- Sept 10 10th Annual Aki Matsuri (ENMA)
- Oct 9-14 8th Kobe Jazz Night in Seattle  
Kobe delegation led by Mayor Tatsuo visits Seattle
- Oct 11 - Jan 6 Seattle Art Museum's "Japan Envisions the West: 16th - 19th Century Japanese Art from the Kobe City Museum"

## Celebrating 40 Years of Partnership with the Kobe YMCA

The YMCA of Greater Seattle celebrated 40 years of partnership and friendship with the Kobe YMCA, welcoming a nine-person delegation from Kobe on September 15 – 19, 2006. The Kobe delegation included their General Secretary (equivalent to President/CEO) **Mr. Yuji Mizuno**, their board chair **Ms. Toshiko Takeda**, and several former staff and volunteers who have been involved in the YMCA Youth Exchange Program.



*Collaborative meeting to discuss the YMCA Youth Exchange Program*



*YMCA of Greater Seattle Board Chair Norm Rice presents a commemorative gift to Kobe YMCA Board Chair Toshiko Takeda*

included the presentation of a gift by our Greater Seattle YMCA board chair, former **Mayor Norm Rice**.

Big kudos to West Seattle Family YMCA staff member **Samantha Bowes** and volunteer **Sue Bird** for organizing and leading this wonderful event.

During their stay, the group from Kobe did some sight-seeing and visiting with old friends, and the two YMCAs reaffirmed their commitment to continuing their partnership through programs like the Youth Exchange Program. The Seattle YMCA honored the Kobe guests in a formal ceremony at the Rainier Club on the night of the 18th, which



*Former Kobe YMCA General Secretary (CEO) Tohru Yamaguchi talks with Karin Zaugg Black*

## History Project

We are gathering photos, stories and information about our rich 50-year history. One of the challenges we face is that we have so many organizations and individuals involved in our sister city relationship, it's hard to track everyone down! If you have photos and memories to contribute to the history project, we want to include your stories as we build out our website and create a commemorative book in 2008. We're looking for your written stories and memories and photos. Please contact **Karin Zaugg Black** at [karin-zaugg@yahoo.com](mailto:karin-zaugg@yahoo.com) or **206-733-9810** if you have something you'd like to contribute. Deadline: July 13, 2007.



*Arrival of Japanese exchange students, August 9, 1960. Photo from Capt. E.D. Stanley, Jr., U.S. Naval Supply Depot, Seattle.*

## Group of Seniors from the Kobe Silver College Visits Seattle

In late September 2006, six senior citizens from Kobe, ranging in age from 60 to 70, visited the Seattle area as an extension of a project begun in Kobe while attending the Kobe Silver College.

These seniors were studying the differences in elder care between the US and Japan - more specifically, Kobe and Seattle. During their weeklong stay in Seattle, they visited Keiro, Nikkei Manor and other locations. Talks by Nikkei Manor staff enabled them to learn about various care facilities and offerings from independent living to full nursing home care. They were all very impressed with the elder care facilities available to native Japanese speakers. This was an unexpected surprise for them.

Nikkei Manor also facilitated an open discussion on "Life After Retirement" among local citizens. All seemed to enjoy the opportunity



*On the left side of the table is the visiting Kobe group, and on the right side are the participants from the Seattle area, front to back, Masahiro Mike Meshii, Hitoshi Maruyama, Taeko Lauritano and Revelle Dunlop.*

to exchange information and ideas. The group also attended a potluck dinner at the home of **Hitoshi and Junko Maruyama**. As these visitors had never been inside an American home, they were happy for the opportunity.

We think the group learned a great deal and enjoyed their visit, and we look forward to a visit this coming fall from another group from the Kobe Silver College!

## A Big "Domo Arigato" to Katsuko Brooke



*Katsuko Brooke with husband Tom.*

The SKSCA would like to warmly thank **Katsuko Brooke** for her six years of service on the SKSCA Board of Directors, four of which she spent serving as treasurer. During her tenure, she organized our records, created templates for yearly reports and kept us on the right financial track! Thank you so much, Katsuko, for your dedicated service!

**(GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING from page 1)**

vote in our newest board members, and wish the 70-person delegation heading to Kobe in May, "Itte irasshai!"

We hope you can join us. More information will be emailed soon. If you are able to attend, please RSVP with **Karin Zaugg Black** at [karinzaugg@yahoo.com](mailto:karinzaugg@yahoo.com) or **206-733-9810**.

# CORPORATE MEMBER PROFILES

## Is Your Business Vision Big Enough? Gobo Enterprises Can Help You Create New Opportunities

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The company was launched by Brenda Handley in 2005. Handley blazed a 25-year business success path as CEO and president of Northwest Suites and Housing Services (now known as ABODA - [www.aboda.com](http://www.aboda.com)) while earning numerous awards and recognition for her strategic vision, inspired leadership, and commitment to making a difference. Gobo Enterprises combines her passions for performance, connection, and results with the services and resources that ensure client success.

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# New Membership/Membership Renewal/Volunteer Form April 2007

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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 and Major Gift Levels

**Supporter: \$125-\$249   Patron: \$250-\$499   Benefactor: \$500-\$999   Founder: \$1,000-plus**

\_\_\_\_\_ 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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