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SEATTLE-KOBE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

Volume 13, Issue 1

Celebrating 50 Years of a Vibrant Sister City Relationship

July 2009

The Fifth Seattle-Kobe Female Jazz Vocalist Audition

On March 23, 2009, the Seattle-Kobe Sister City Association (SKSCA) held its fifth annual Seattle-Kobe Female Jazz Vocalist Audition. And what an event – the best so far with a packed house of over 300 people! We thank the audition participants, their friends and family, our members for their support! The judges selected **Ms. Greta Matassa** and **Ms. Katherine Stuber** to represent Seattle at the 10th Annual Kobe Jazz Queen Contest on May 9, 2009 in Kobe, Japan.



Ms. Matassa is a professional vocalist who has performed throughout the Puget Sound region. Overseas, her singing credits include Russia, Singapore and now Japan. In 2009, Greta Matassa was voted "Northwest Vocalist of the Year" by Earshot Jazz and gets regular national airplay. Ms. Stuber is a sophomore at Roosevelt High School

who has been recognized as an outstanding vocalist at several jazz festivals throughout the region. She has also performed regionally at such places as the Triple Door, Tula's and Bake's Place.

Special mentions and \$150 gift certificates to Jazz Alley were awarded to **Ms. Cheryl Jewell** in the Adult Division and **Ms. Lucy Horton** in the High School Division. Readers may have enjoyed hearing Ms. Jewell while performing with the Jewell Jazz Ensemble or The Saltwater Octet. Ms. Horton, a participant in the 2008 Seattle Kobe Female Jazz Vocalist Audition is a senior at Mercer Island High School and studies both jazz and classical



(Continued on page 4)



Upcoming Events Mark Your Calendars!!

SKSCA General Membership Potluck -Saturday, August 29, 2009

General Membership Potluck Party at Jon and Marcy Edwards' House
Saturday, August 29, 2009 - 4 pm - 8 pm
7317 - 164th Pl. SW
Edmonds, 98026

Come join SKSCA members and friends, take in the lovely views of Puget Sound and enjoy eating yummy food and chatting with friends on a lovely summer afternoon. Please RSVP to Karin Zaugg Black at karinzaugg@yahoo.com or 206-465-8387 and let her know what potluck item you will be bringing. See page 5 for directions to Jon and Marcy's house.

Kobe Jazz Queen Concert -Monday, September 14, 2009

SKSCA is pleased to welcome the 2009 Kobe Jazz Queen, **Whoopin**, to Dimitriou's Jazz Alley on Monday, September 14th. Mark your calendars for lovely evening of jazz!



A Big THANK YOU to Our Corporate Sponsors!

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

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Dimitriou's Jazz Alley
Gobo Enterprises
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Sankei Travel
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Yamato Transport USA

Message from the Chair



Happy Summer! I hope you've been enjoying the wonderful warm weather. We've had a busy first half of the year, with a successful jazz audition, our jazz winners and a student group traveling to Kobe, our usual Kimono & Yukata Dress-Up Booth at the Cherry Blossom Festival, and the arrival of a new Kobe Trade Information Office Director.

We're excited about activities coming up in August and September. We'll have a General Membership Potluck at the home of Jon and Marcy Edwards on August 29th, a SKSCA booth making bookmarks for guests at the annual Aki Matsuri on September 12th and 13th, and we'll be welcoming the Kobe Jazz Queen, Whoopin, to Dimitriou's Jazz Alley on Monday, September 14th. Mark your calendars for these upcoming events!

As always, we could not continue our exchanges and programs without your support. Membership invoices are being mailed this month – we thank you in advance for renewing and donating to SKSCA!

All donations to SKSCA are tax-deductible; SKSCA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with IRS tax identification #23-7034425. Please visit our website www.seattlekobe.org to make your payment online via credit card, or send renewal checks to SKSCA, c/o Stacey Jehlik, 3115 NE 65th St., Seattle, WA 98115.

Call or email Stacey (stacers@speakeasy.net or 206-523-2220) if you have any questions about your membership or renewal. See you at an event soon!

Warmly,

Karin Zaugg Black

Kobe-Seattle Sister City Founder Celebrates 88th Birthday

A birthday celebration for **Shizuo Imai**, General Secretary Emeritus of the Kobe YMCA, was held November 15, 2008, at the Hotel Okura in Kobe. Mr. Imai was on the Mayor of Kobe's committee when the Seattle-Kobe Sister City relationship was founded 52 years ago. A few years later he instigated the relationship between the Kobe YMCA and YMCA of Greater Seattle, which is now in its 43rd year. More than 380 people attended the celebration, which recognized Mr. Imai's significant contributions to city of Kobe, Hyogo prefecture, Japan and the global community.

Tom Horsley, Senior Vice President of the YMCA of Greater Seattle and member of SKSCA Board, represented the YMCA and Seattle-Kobe Sister City Association at the celebration. As a tribute to Mr. Imai, Horsley presented a Seattle Mariners umbrella that had been autographed by Mariners President **Chuck Armstrong**, the volunteer and staff leadership of the Seattle YMCA, **Karin Zaugg Black**, President of the Seattle-Kobe Sister City Association and several of Mr. Imai's Seattle friends.



Tom Horsley and Shizuo Imai with the gift umbrella.

Congratulations Tom & Katsuko Brooke

Longtime SKSCA members **Tom and Katsuko Brooke** were honored by the Japanese Community Service of Seattle with an Outstanding Community Service Award at their annual installation and awards luncheon on February 28, 2009 for their commitment to many Japanese and Japanese-American related organizations in the greater Seattle area, particularly their management of the Eastside Nihon Matsuri's Aki Matsuri. Congratulations, Tom and Katsuko for a well-deserved honor!



Tom and Katsuko Brooke accept an Outstanding Community Service Award

New Kobe Trade Information

Office Director:

Toshihiko Nakamura

SKSCA said goodbye in March to **Mr. Kenji Uematsu** and his wife **Chinami** after their three years here in Seattle, including 2007's 50th anniversary celebrations. In April, **Mr. Nakamura** arrived in Seattle to start his three year post at Director of the Kobe Trade Information Office (KTIO), branch office of the City of Kobe. He writes, "Seattle is a wonderful city surrounded by nature. There is a lot of green here, with quite a bit of hills and a sea which reminds me of Kobe. Though this is my first time in such a position, I hope to learn what it takes to promote friendly relations between Kobe and Seattle. I look forward to my next three years in Seattle and meeting the many members of the Seattle-Kobe Sister City Association in the future."



*KTIO Director
Toshihiko Nakamura*

If you would be interested in meeting Nakamura-san for coffee or lunch and some English conversation (he's practicing hard!), please contact **Marie Menard** at KTIO at 206-622-7640 or mmenard@cityofkobe.org. You can learn more about KTIO and the City of Kobe at their website: www.cityofkobe.org

KTIO Staff member: Marie Menard

Nakamura-san is assisted by **Marie Menard**, who is also fairly new to Seattle. Marie writes, "I have been working at the Kobe Trade Information Office since February, 2008, after moving from Albuquerque, New Mexico to Seattle for a change of climate. I really enjoy working at KTIO and promoting the many aspects of trade, culture, and tourism in Kobe. This past year has taught me much about the extensive and lifelong sister-city relationship between Seattle and Kobe. I hope to continue to see and help with more events that promote this relationship in the future."



*KTIO Staff member
Marie Menard*

Cultural Immersion Program Sends Students to Kobe

Nathan Eddings



Keimei: (left to right): Colin Rice, Brittany Carrol-Watts, Tony Walls, Jen Reynolds, Sarah Peterson, Nathan Eddings with their host students.

Students from Seattle's **University Prep High School** traveled to Kobe this April, 2009, as part of the school's Global Link program. For students **Brittany Carrol-Watts, Jen Reynolds, Colin Rice, and Tony Walls**, this was much more than a sightseeing trip; it was total cultural immersion. Not only did the students stay with host families, attend school at Keimei High School, but they also had to give up their cell phones, their iPods and anything else connecting them back home to Seattle. This communication blackout, which included phone calls and emails back to parents, is a key aspect of the University Prep's program and is designed for better cultural immersion. The two adult leaders, **Sarah Peterson** and

Nathan Eddings, checked in daily back home with updates and to share stories with the families. During their stay, students researched Japanese culture, religion, art and US/Japan relations (specifically the relationship between Seattle and Kobe) as part of an overall academic theme of Peace Studies.

One of the trip's highlights was a one-night stay at Engyoji, the mountaintop temple complex used as the set for the film, *The Last Samurai*. Students took a private tour led by the temple monks and were granted access to temple buildings and artifacts otherwise closed to the public. After exploring the complex, they enjoyed a vegetarian meal and a Zen meditation session under the moonlight.

Students also studied the Great Hanshin Earthquake of 1995 and its devastating effect on the city, the national and international response, and the relief effort. Kobe city residents, in conjunction with the Silver City College, held a symposium with the students to share personal earthquake experiences and to discuss the importance of international relief effort. The Asahi newspaper ran a story about the event along with a full color photo on the front page of its Kobe section.

The **Kobe-Seattle Sister City Association (KSSCA)** played a large role in creating the schedule, finding host families and planning events. Thanks to the KSSCA, the group enjoyed cherry blossoms at Himeji castle, attended a Kobe Vissel professional soccer game, and had countless other extraordinary experiences. Many thanks to all of the host families, the volunteers and Keimei school for such a memorable trip!



Himeji: (From left to right): Jen Reynolds, Brittany Carrol-Watts, Tony Walls, Sarah Peterson, Colin Rice, Nathan Eddings

2009 Japanese Community Queen Scholarship Program

The Seattle-Kobe Sister City Association has long supported the annual Greater Seattle Japanese Community Queen Scholarship Program. The selected Queens have traditionally traveled to Kobe each year to participate in the Kobe Matsuri, Kobe's large festival that is a counterpart to our Seafair.



This year, SKSCA Board member **Bruce Robb** represented SKSCA at the coronation ceremony, and presented a SKSCA scholarship to First Princess **Mackenzie Walker**. To learn more about the Japanese Community Queen program, visit their website at www.seattlejqc.org, or email info@seattlejqc.org.



Top: The 2009 Japanese Community Queen and her entire court, from left to right, First Princess Mackenzie Walker, Queen and Miss Tomodachi Kiana Kobayashi, Princess Mary Kawamura and Princess Julie Hamasaki. Right: SKSCA Board member Bruce Robb presenting the scholarship to the 2009 recipient Mackenzie Walker. Also in the photo is Erina Aoyama, past queen and talent recipient from 2008.

2009 Japanese Community Queen Erina Aoyama's Trip to Kobe

The 2008 Queen, **Erina Aoyama**, traveled to Kobe from May 7-19, 2009, and reported that she had a wonderful time! She writes, "The Kobe Matsuri itself was cancelled due to the swine flu outbreak, though for me this only meant that I missed out on the parade. I was still able to participate in a number of other events, including a boat cruise around Kobe Harbor, a trip to Ikuta Shrine, where we participated in several ceremonies and received a tour of the shrine grounds, and a visit with the Mayor at City Hall. In my spare time, my father and I went to Arima Onsen, and on the Sunday when the parade would have been held, one of the city officials took us around the Kitano area of Kobe to see the old foreigner residences such as the



2008 Japanese Community Queen Erina Aoyama greeting Kobe Mayor Tatsuo Yada

Weathercock House, among others. This was my first trip to Kobe, and I was very much impressed by the beauty of the city. Being from Seattle, I suppose I'm biased toward port cities, but I found the harbor to be gorgeous, and particularly enjoyed wandering the shops in the Sannomiya, Motomachi and Nankinmachi areas."

Jazz Vocalist Audition (continued)

vocals and piano. She is a member of the All NW Jazz Choir and has sung the national anthem for various sports events.

It was a fabulous evening! We hope readers will check the SKSCA website later this fall for the date of the Sixth Seattle-Kobe Female Jazz Vocalist Audition in March, 2010. In the meantime, the winner of the 10th Kobe Jazz Queen Contest, **Whoopin**, will perform at Dimitriou's Jazz Alley on Monday, September 14, 2009. Please mark your calendars, reserve a table at Jazz Alley, and be ready for another wonderful evening of jazz and the sharing of the love of jazz with friends from across the Pacific.



Jazz Vocalist Winners this year (l to r): Greta Matassa, Winner/Adult Division; Lucy Horton, Winner/Special Mention, High School Division; Katherine Stuber, Winner/High School Division; and Cheryl Jewell, Winner/Special Mention, Adult Division

A big thank you to all who helped make this event possible, especially coordinator **Mari Maruyama 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; **William Montgomery**,

President of the Seattle Music Teachers Association; **Raina Wagner**, ticket editor for The Seattle Times; and **Jim Wilke**, Producer and Host of Jazz after Hours on Public Radio International and Jazz Northwest on radio station KPLU.

We thank **Consul General Mitsunori Namba** for starting our event and welcoming everyone, and last year's winners, **Karen Shivers** and **Siobhan Bruggers**, for sharing their impressions of Kobe and a few songs with the audience.

Of course, the following excellent singers gave wonderful performances as well, stumping the judges as they made their final selections. Thanks to all the finalists for participating: in the High School Division, **Genevieve Ferrari** and **Lucy Horton**; and in the Adult Division, **Rebekka Goldsmith**, **Stina Hultin**, **Rebecca Peterson**, **Leah Stillwell**, and **Laura Welland**.

Katherine Stuber's reflections on her Kobe trip

"Japan was amazing. The moment we arrived in Osaka I felt like I was on another planet. Everyone was so nice and welcoming as well. The night of the competition was incredible. It was so cool to hear the contestants sing our classic American jazz songs. And they all sang so beautifully. Greta and I met the winner from last year and she was really nice to me. My family and I are so grateful to our hosts **Yumi** and **Yoshi**. I appreciate everything they both did for us and making us feel at home. It was an incredible trip and I will remember it for the rest of my life."

Greta Matassa's reflections on her Kobe trip

"We very much enjoyed our time in Kobe. What a beautiful place. We loved meeting such friendly folks and great musicians. The singers were all beautiful and had lovely voices. I

look forward to seeing the winner in Seattle this fall. I have two favorite memories I would like to share. The first is our "discovery" of the entrance to the Nunobiki Waterfalls Trail system directly behind our hotel and under and behind the train station. It was a miracle we found it—it being rather hidden! But the hike up into the foothills was just what a couple of true Northwesterners like Clipper and me enjoy! The second was when **Chie Kobashi** (last year's Kobe Jazz Queen Vocalist winner) came to me after the show and asked, "If I come to Seattle again, could you teach me to make the drummer sweat!" as I had just done. This was meant as a compliment and I certainly took it as such. It was funny and we had a good laugh about what fun it is to have your musicians, not only respect your ability, but to break a sweat keeping up with your tempo, smiling all the way!

A special *arigato* to sponsors **Dimitriou's Jazz Alley**, **Sankei Travel**, and supporter **Kobe Trade Information Office**, and all the volunteers (**John Charlton**, **Nathan Eddings**, **Cynthia Rekdal**, **Amy Scott**) and screeners (**Steve Alley**, **Mark Carpenter**, **Amy Scott**, **Adam Thompson**) who helped make this audition work smoothly. In Kobe, we thank the **City of Kobe**, **Shinkaichi Music Street**, **Art Farmer Company**, **Dentsu**, and especially **Yoshio and Yumi Imai**, organizers in Kobe!

Seafair Ambassador Student Exchange

Rhonda Watt



Seafair Ambassadors who traveled to Kobe in 2008; Kneeling (l to r): Lorilyn Roller, Mawa Ali Back row (l to r): Val Conklin, Laura Ewton, Ally Fina, and Hailey Hargraves

Konnichiwa from Seafair! Last year we had the Kobe Board of Education delegation visit Seattle September 2-7, 2008. The ten students and two chaperones visited many of the best sights Seattle has to offer, from touring the Jones Soda and Starbucks headquarters, to watching Ichiro play against the New York Yankees! The students were hosted by the Seafair Ambassador families and spent time interacting with other students at their high schools.

From November 11-16, 2008 **Carl Smith** and **Rhonda Watt** escorted the six Seafair Ambassadors to Kobe, Japan. Our students had a chance to visit Himeji Castle before it closed for renovations, and cruised the bay on the Luminous Kobe 2.



Kobe Students and Chaperones who visited Seattle in 2008 Front row (l to r): Hirona Maesawa, Yumi Yumoto, Megumi Ishiyama, Seki Haraguchi Middle row (l to r): Ms. Naoko Furukawa, Nami Hayashi, Rina Kinoshita, Shunji Torada, Makoto Yamase, Shinji Takeyama Last row (l to r): Mr. Etsutaka Kuyama, Takuma Nishimura

The student visited Ikuta Shrine where Ichiro prays before he starts his season with the Mariners! The Ambassadors met with **Mayor Yada** of Kobe, and along with their host families, visited Osaka and Kyoto. Everyone enjoyed their time in Kobe and many hope to study in Japan while in college.

Directions to General Membership Potluck Party Saturday, August 29, 2009



Address: 7317 - 164 Pl. SW, Edmonds, WA 98026
Phone: (425) 742-1190

GOING NORTH ON I-5

Take the Lynnwood 44th Ave. exit (Exit #181) Turn left and go north on 44th Ave. for 2.3 miles to the light at 168th (Key Bank).

Turn left here onto 168th St., and go west, across Hwy 99, for 1.4 miles.

(Stay in the right hand lane, which jogs right at the stop light just past the high school.) Turn right at stop sign onto 66th Ave. and go one block. (Meadowdale Park will be on your left.) Turn left onto Meadowdale Road (which starts to wind down to the water) and go ¼ mile.

Take the first left up a hill onto 164th St. and proceed for one long block.

At 1st stop sign at 72nd Ave, jog left for ½ block, and then right onto 164th Place. Follow this to our house with two pointed roofs at the end of a cul-de-sac.

GOING SOUTH ON I-5

Take the 164th Street Exit (#183), turn right onto 164th St. and go west 1.75 miles until the road winds south and you see Key Bank on your right at 168th.

Turn right onto 168th Street.

(Continue directions from the first set of instructions.)

GOING NORTH ON I-405

Merge onto I-5 North and take the 1st exit (164 St. Exit # 183) off of I-5

Turn onto 164th Street and go west 1.75 miles until the road winds south and you see Key Bank on your right at 168th Street.

Turn right onto 168th Street.

(Continue directions from the first set of instructions.)

CORPORATE MEMBER PROFILE

Junglecit.com is the award-winning Japanese language portal dedicated to providing the most extensive and up-to-date information on Seattle and Washington state. Since 1998, Junglecit.com has consistently provided thousands of Japanese with high-quality content updated daily, revolutionizing the way Japanese get information about the area through approximately 10,000 pages of original content. A foreign city can sometimes seem like a jungle. Junglecit.com's goal is to inform users by providing comprehensive and accurate information in a way that will connect the Japanese with our region. Junglecit.com gives their users the opportunity to make informed decisions. They connect people and enable them to exchange information and share their experiences. With Junglecit.com, the process of discovering our splendid region is fun and exciting, which is why so many new users and businesses are discovering them every day!

Founder Takumi Ono writes, "In May 1998, after a stint as a market analyst in the cycling industry, I established Junglecit Network Inc with hopes it would evolve into a consummate resource. In fact, the name of the company reflects our desire to serve as guides through the complex jungle of overlapping cultures. I believe the prime showcase for our capabilities is Junglecit.com, which demonstrates the ability to organize information as well as the breadth of our services from web design to site management to event planning.



Community * Culture * Business * New Media

I take pride in knowing the Northwest in and out and deeply appreciate the opportunities to meet people through my work who are making positive contributions to their lives and the society. Of course, there are small and big challenges that I need to overcome at almost daily basis. But while sitting beside my mother after her surgery of removing cancer in 2004, I have become to have a strong sense of the fact that time is limited and I need to focus on what I want from my life. The experience still helps me dedicate myself to do what I believe good for the community. I am lucky to be able to work with a team of talented women who is always willing to do what is best for my company and stick to its mission.

Last year, we took on a new challenge: Launching Junglecit Portland. From the research stage and even after its launch in May of this year, I have been overwhelmed with the appreciation for the Pacific Northwest. "There is a lot more work to do." That is exactly how I feel at this moment and that feeling is exactly what gives me energy to move on."

Check out Seattle's Junglecit at www.junglecit.com and Portland's Junglecit at <http://portland.junglecit.com>.

New Membership/Membership Renewal/Volunteer Form July 2009

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 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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