



Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association



Volume 2, Issue 1

Newsletter

January 2012

2012 New Board President Named

Jeanette Schelin has been elected as the new president of the 2012 Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association. She has been an active member of the Association since 2001 and is the director of the Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden at Cal State Long Beach. Jeanette also serves on many community and university boards and committees in service of arts, culture, education and the environment.

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Trio Program—Host Families Needed

About the Trio Program

In alternate years, one teacher and two students from Long Beach are selected to visit Yokkaichi, Japan as goodwill ambassadors for a three-week cultural exchange. In alternate years, Long Beach hosts a trio from Yokkaichi.

Trio applicants must be Long Beach residents and/or Long Beach Unified School District students and citizens of the United States, possess a record of good citizenship in school and community, have participated in school and community activities and have an interest in being an official ambassador of goodwill from Long Beach. In addition, students should be a member of the 10th or 11th grade in the spring semester of their application and have a 3.0 grade point average or higher from the ninth grade through the first semester of the current school year. We will be accepting applications in Jan/Feb 2013.

Application forms may be downloaded from our website:

<http://longbeach-yokkaichi.org>.

Host Families Needed for 2012 Trio

2012 is our turn to host a trio from Yokkaichi, Japan. Two students and a teacher will be arriving from Japan and the dates are as follows:

**Trio arrive LAX
Sun, July 22, 2012**

**Trio departs LAX
Fri, August 10, 2012**

We need six host families for the one teacher and two students.

**Hosting period #1 (3 families)
July 22-31, 2012**

**Hosting period #2 (3 families)
August 1-10, 2012**

If you can host or know a family who is interested in hosting one of the trio members, please contact Mike Vaughn:

Contact:

Mike Vaughn, Acting Chair
Trio Committee
mike@vaughnlawoffice.com
562-592-9350

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2012 Environmental Summit Dates Set

In 2007 former Yokkaichi Mayor Inouye proposed that a delegation of Long Beach students go to Yokkaichi to discuss environmental problems and solutions with students from Japan and China in cooperation with the Port of Long Beach and other environmental groups.

Each summer four high school students and a teacher from Long Beach take part in this annual environmental summit.

The dates for the 2012 Environmental Summit have been set:

**Students depart LAX
Sun, July 22, 2012**

**Students arrive Yokkaichi
Mon, July 23, 2012**

**Summit Starts
Mon, July 23, 2012**

**Students Return LAX
Tue, July 31, 2012**

July 24, 2012 is the 40th year anniversary of the court judgment on

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Summit—*cont'd from pg 1*

the air pollution in the city of Yokkaichi. Due to this anniversary, the Summit will be held earlier in 2012. The tentative theme is "Air Pollution and Prevention."

Expenses, except roundtrip airfare, will be paid by the Association. All applicants must have a current passport.

Application is available for download on our website:

<http://longbeach-yokkaichi.org>
or

by contacting the committee chairperson, **Bonnie Sharp-Stoepelman** (see contact information below).

Submission of applications must be received NO LATER than Saturday, March 10, 2012.

Applications will be reviewed and those for consideration will be interviewed by the selection committee on **Saturday, March 17, 2012.**

If you have any questions, please contact:

Bonnie Sharp-Stoepelman, Chair
Student Environmental Summit
Yokkaichi@SharpHOA.com
Bonnie@SharpHOA.com
310-514-1377

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Long Beach-Yokkaichi Friendship Garden Project

In 1964 a Japanese garden was designed in downtown Long Beach at Lincoln Park as a tribute to Long Beach's sister City, Yokkaichi, Japan.



This park is directly in front of Long Beach's City Hall.

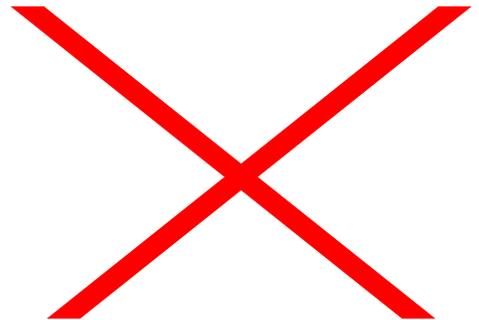
A 1998 plaque at the garden commemorated the 35th anniversary of the Cities' relationship.

However, due to new city plans, Long Beach has decided to move the garden to a more suitable site at Recreation Park on 7th Street.

As a class project, Keiji Uesugi, adjunct professor at Cal Poly, and his 19 students visited Recreation Park and presented their ideas to Sandra Gonzalez, Long Beach's manager of planning & development in the parks, recreation & marine department, and Michael Vaughn, former president of the sister city association for feedback.

After each meeting, students updated their plans to reflect concerns about traffic, public safety, flexibility, parking and maintenance.

From the presentations a basic and cost-effective design was tweaked (see final plan below) and the project will be on its way to breaking ground in the near future.



The city will be providing most of the funding and some trees, however, we will need about 5 or 6 flowering trees such as crab apple, cherry and/or plum.

If you are able to help, please contact the committee members below:

Garden Project Committee
Ed Rickter
erickter@charter.net

Jeanette Schelin
Jeanette.Schelin@csulb.edu
Phone: 562-833-4106

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Yoko Pusavat Visits Yokkaichi



Yoko Pusavat, chair of the Trio Exchange program, visited Yokkaichi in the fall of 2011 and was able to meet with Mayor Tanaka and his staff. She was warmly received

and had a wonderful and memorable time meeting the mayor and his hospitable staff.



Yoko with Yokkaichi Mayor Tanaka and staff of the Cultural & International Affairs Division

2012 YEF Program

One of the highlights of the Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association is the Yokkaichi English Fellows (YEF) program. **This very successful program provides an opportunity for Long Beach teachers or Cal State Long Beach graduates to serve for two years as assistant language teachers at the elementary and middle school levels in Yokkaichi, Japan.**

This is an English immersion program for the students. Speaking Japanese is not required.

Selected teachers or new graduates will work at a paid position in the Yokkaichi School System for two years. A total of seven YEFs are at the school system each year and are replaced on a rotating basis so that the 2nd year YEFs may assist the new arrivals.

VERY IMPORTANT: Applications are due NO LATER than March 7, 2012.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Jeanne Karatsu
YEF Program Co-Chair
Phone: (562) 498-2640
and/or e-mail
JKLB98@aol.com.

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LB-Yokkaichi Sister City Supporting Organizations

- City of Long Beach
- Port of Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners
- Earl Miller Burns Japanese Garden, Cal State Long Beach

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Akemashite Omedeto Gozaimasu!

明けまして
おめでとう
ございます

In other words, "Happy New Year!"

The Japanese New Year (正月, *shōgatsu*) is one of the most important annual festivals, with its own unique customs, and has been celebrated for centuries. Due to the importance of the holiday and the preparations required, the preceding days are quite busy, particularly the day before, known as Ōmisoka.

The Japanese New Year has been celebrated since 1873 according to the Gregorian calendar, on January 1 of each year (New Year's Day where the Gregorian calendar is used).

Prior to the Meiji Period, the date of the Japanese New Year was based on the Chinese lunar calendar, as are the contemporary Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese New Years. However, in 1873, five years after the Meiji Restoration, Japan adopted the Gregorian calendar and the first day of January became the official and cultural New Year's Day.

At midnight on December 31, Buddhist temples all over Japan ring their bells a total of 108 times to symbolize the 108 human sins in Buddhist belief, and to get rid of the 108 worldly desires regarding sense and feeling in every Japanese citizen. A major attraction is The Watched Night bell, in Tokyo. Japanese believe that the ringing of bells can rid off their sins during the previous year. After they are done ringing the bells, they celebrate and feast on soba noodles. —Wikipedia

The Year of the Dragon

1916, 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012, 2024 (every 12 years).

Personality Traits of the Dragon

Seemingly born under a lucky star, the dragon is the most vital and powerful of any in the Chinese zodiac with the following personality traits:

Enthusiastic, confident, honest
Quick witted
Inspires confidence in others
Courageous
Possesses a soft and sensitive heart; tenacity; and intelligence

Famous people born in the year of the dragon: Joan of Arc, Susan B. Anthony, Florence Nightingale, Sigmund Freud, Mae West, John Lennon, Bruce Lee, Keanu Reeves, Orlando Bloom, Colin Farrell and Sandra Bullock.



2012 Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Board Members

Joe Aihara	Yoko Pusavat
Bruce Easley	Ed Rickter
Victor Fukuhara	Jeanette Schelin
Larry Hill	Yumi Shibasaki
Jeffrey Inui	Bonnie Stoeppelman
Jeanne Karatsu	Elisa Turien
Pat McMaster	Chizuru Vancil
Kari Milton	Mike Vaughn
Barbara Parks	Roy Wood

Contact

Jeanette Schelin, President
562-833-4106
Jeanette.Schelin@csulb.edu