



Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association

Founded 1963



Volume 4, Issue 1

Newsletter

February 2014

2014 Yokkaichi Trio to Visit L.B.

6 Host Families Needed

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.

2014 is our turn to host a trio from Yokkaichi, Japan and 6 families are being sought to serve as hosts this summer for two high school students and a teacher from Yokkaichi who will arrive in mid-July. Each member of the Yokkaichi trio will spend about 10 days with one family and the final 10 days with another family.

Host families should have at least one child around the age of the visiting student and there should be a responsible adult during the guest's stay.

Dates: July 22—August 9, 2014 (tentative)

First Host Family Stay: July 22—July 31
Second Host Family Stay: July 31—August 9

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

Yoko Pusavat, Trio Committee Chair
yoko.pusavat@csulb.edu

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2014 Environmental Summit

Applications Now Available

In 2007 former Yokkaichi Mayor Tetsuo Inoue established a program that sends a delegation of Long Beach students to participate in a solution-finding study and discussion regarding environmental problems with other students from Japan and China.



Four high school students and a chaperone from Long Beach are being sought to take part in this annual environmental summit to take place in Yokkaichi, Japan, **July 27—August 4, 2014** (tentative dates). Applications are now available on our website at <http://longbeach-yokkaichi.org>.

Please contact the Environmental Summit Chair with any questions:

Bonnie Sharp-Stoepelman
Yokkaichi@SharpHOA.com

Student and Chaperone Applications
Now Available at <http://longbeach-yokkaichi.org>
Deadline for Applications: March 11, 2014
Interview Date: March 15, 2014

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Would You Like to Teach in Yokkaichi, Japan?

One of the highlights of the Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association is the Yokkaichi English Fellows (YEF). 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.



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.

Attend the YEF INFO Session

CSULB
Thursday, February 20, 2014
4:00pm—5:00pm
Career Development Center, BH 250
Conference Room

If you have questions, please contact:
Jeanne Karatsu, YEF Program Chair, JKLB98@aol.com

Deadline for Applications: Monday, March 17, 2014

Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister Cities

Celebrate 50 Years!

L.B. Delegation Visit—10/15-10/23

Seven delegates from the Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association (LBYSKA) traveled to Yokkaichi City on October 15 to kick off the 50th Anniversary between the two sister cities: **Jeanette Schelin**, Board President, **Yoko Pusavat**, Board VP, **Victor Fukuhara**, Treasurer; and Board members, **Elisa and Nico Turien**, **Aki** and **Mike Vaughn** were welcomed by a wonderful city staff who guided and accompanied them to all the Yokkaichi events.

First and foremost was a meeting with **Yokkaichi Mayor Toshiyuki Tanaka** at City Hall. Upon entering the City Hall building, the delegates were overwhelmed when they were greeted by many children waving American and Japanese flags. **Jeanette Schelin** and **Mike Vaughn**, LBYSKA past president and the official representative of **Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster**, were presented floral bouquets and posed for press photographers.



Meeting with Yokkaichi Mayor Toshiyuki Tanaka.

Mayor Tanaka and Yokkaichi City Council Vice Chairman **Kaneyuki Takeno** warmly received the delegates in a lovely reception room overlooking the city.

The 10-day trip included an elegant Welcome Banquet, a tour of the **Yokkaichi Port** building, and a visit to **Long Beach Park**, a beautifully maintained garden dedicated to our city. One of the LBYSKA programs is the Doctors Exchange Program therefore a visit to the **Yokkaichi City Hospital** was a must.

The delegation visited the schools from which many students and teachers were selected as past Yokkaichi Trio members. At **Akatsuki Middle/High School**, the delegates met **Principal Kazanari Muto**, a 1989 Yokkaichi Trio Teacher and **YEF Matt Jones**. Each

(Continued on page 3)

Yokkaichi Delegation Visit—11/5-11/8

Thirteen delegates from Yokkaichi, Japan, arrived in Long Beach on November 5th for 4 days of meetings and tours of our fair city. Led by **Yokkaichi Mayor Toshiyuki Tanaka** and **City Council Chairman, Kazuma Doi**, the delegation met with **Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster** at City Hall to sign a proclamation to continue the Long Beach and Yokkaichi sister cities relationship for the next 50 years.



Mayor Foster, Mayor Tanaka, & City Council Chairman, Doi.

After meeting with Mayor Foster and the **Long Beach City Council**, the delegates attended a welcome banquet at the beautifully renovated **Rancho Los Alamitos** hosted by **Pamela Seager** of the Rancho and the LBYSKA Board members.



Welcome Banquet at Rancho Los Alamitos.

Day 2 was a visit to **Tincher Preparatory School** where the delegates received a warm welcome from the kindergartners waving Japanese flags. **Principal Dr. Kelly An** led a tour of several classrooms which included students discussing their interpretations of a story they had read; a 1st grade computer math class; and a creative class where students were learning history by acting out scenes.

(Continued on page 3)

L.B. Delegation Visit—Cont'd from pg. 2



At Long Beach Park—the oil well replica was a gift from Long Beach to Yokkaichi in 1965.

delegate gave a Powerpoint presentation about the diversity of America to the students of English studies. At **Minato High School** they observed one of our seven YEFs currently assistant teaching in Yokkaichi, **Bryan Duran**. A delightful time was spent at **Yokkaichi Middle/High School** where each delegate was given a small group of students to interact with by playing board games in English only.

At the **50th Anniversary Ceremony**, the all women's choir, "Kyo", entertained with a Japanese song and "Amazing Grace" in English. Jeanette Schelin presented a replica of the Queen Mary to Mayor Tanaka and Mike Vaughn received the "Yokkaichi Honorary Citizen Award".



50th Anniversary Celebration

(Continued on page 4)

Yokkaichi Delegation Visit—Cont'd from pg. 2



Tincher Preparatory School

Next on the agenda was a tour of the state-of-the-art **CSULB Recreation and Wellness Center** and of the campus via electric carts. After a lunch at the **Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden** and a presentation by the **CSULB Center for International Studies**, the delegates visited the **Long Beach Art Museum**.



Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden at CSULB

On Day 3 eleven delegates met with **Bob McLaughlin** of the **Long Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau** and later with **Kraig Kojian**, **Director of the L.B. Downtown Business Association**, while two delegates from **Yokkaichi City Hospital**, **Deputy Administrator Dr. Masayuki Miyachi** and **Nursing Director Kiyomi Yoshihara**, toured the ER at the **Long Beach Memorial Medical Center**.



Tour of Downtown Long Beach.

(Continued on page 4)

L.B. Delegation Visit—Cont'd from pg. 3

A symposium at the Yokkaichi Civic Center on "Community and Neighborhood" sponsored by the **Neighborhood Community Association** in Yokkaichi was very interesting and informative. On the discussion panel was **Long Beach Neighborhood Resource Center representative, Will Cullen**. It was an education to see how ordinary Yokkaichi citizens are assisting their aging neighbors.

One of the highlights was attending the 2nd Annual Family Music Contest at the Yokkaichi Culture Hall. Fifteen talented musical families from all over Japan competed for cash prizes. There were many deserving families and the panel of judges were faced with a difficult decision, but in the end awarded first place to the **Watsushi family** of four classical musicians.



The delegation was fortunate to visit Yokkaichi businesses and experience its culture: touring the **Toshiba Factory** was a special privilege; experiencing a tea ceremony at the **Tea House Shisui-An**; making pottery at **Banko no Sato Kaikan** (Yokkaichi is renowned for its Bankoware); visiting the **Suizawa Tea Plantation**; tasting and learning of the various types of tea at the **Green Tea Cafe**; enjoying a unique dance, "Suwa Odori", at the **Ashimida Shrine**; and meeting the lovely people at the open farmer's market at **Jizen Bashi Market**.



Sayonara Party

The nine days in Yokkaichi was a trip of a lifetime for the Long Beach delegates. The beautiful city, its lovely culture, the delicious food, and most of all, the generosity, graciousness and hospitality of the wonderful people of Yokkaichi will be a most cherished memory.

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Yokkaichi Delegation Visit—Cont'd from pg. 3



Touring Small Businesses in Long Beach

Margaret Madden of the **Neighborhood Resource Center** led the delegation on a bus tour of community businesses that culminated in a tour of the **Mark Twain Branch Library** led by **Head Librarian, Susan Taylor**, and a potluck dinner hosted by Neighborhood Resource Center volunteers and **LBYSKA** board members.

Toshiba Yokkaichi Corporation General Manager, Mr. Tomoharu Watanabe, and 3 others from **Toshiba Irvine** met with **Dr. Forouzan Golshani, Dean, College of Engineering, CSULB**, to discuss developing relationships between **Toshiba** and **CSULB**.

Mr. Toru Mizutani of the **Yokkaichi Symphony**, spent the evening enjoying a rehearsal of the **Long Beach Symphony Orchestra** with **LBYSKA** Board member, **Jeanne Karatsu**.

The final day of their stay in Long Beach kicked off with the re-dedication ceremony of the **Yokkaichi Garden**. Invited guests witnessed the unveiling of a new garden sign and a ribbon-cutting ceremony of the renovated **Torii gate**, a gift from Yokkaichi to Long Beach in 1989 (see page 6).



L.B. Port Commissioner Doug Drummond & Mayor Tanaka.

After the garden re-dedication, the delegation attended a luncheon meeting at the **Port of Long Beach** offices with **Port Commissioner Doug Drummond**. The delegates were then transported to

(Continued on page 5)

More Photos from Yokkaichi Trip



Yokkaichi Port Building



Dancer Yoshiko Asanuma



Yokkaichi Middle/High School

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In Memoriam...Barbara Parks



Our community recently lost one of its most beloved citizens—Barbara Parks.

Barbara was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana. After receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from Indiana University in 1963, she moved to Long Beach and quickly landed her first job at TV Guide magazine.

From May 1964 she worked as an editor and writer in the Public Affairs and Publications Office at CSULB until her retirement in 2003.

She traveled the world with her son, David, and volunteered in 16 organizations, one of which was the Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association. She joined the LBYSCA in 2000 and served with dedication as Board Secretary and Publicist until her illness made it too difficult for her to continue in mid-2013.

She was a lovely woman with an infectious smile, blessed with a beautiful family and many friends. She touched our lives and we will always remember her fondly.

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Yokkaichi Delegation Visit—*Cont'd from pg. 4*



In front of the Port of Long Beach building.

Shoreline Village to board the "Triumphant" of Harbor Breeze Cruises for a sightseeing tour of Long Beach Harbor.

The busy day was capped off with the **50th Anniversary Banquet** at **Khoury's Restaurant**. The evening opened with the presentation of colors by the **Boy Scouts of America Troop 303**, led by Scoutmaster Stan Hadley. Dignitaries included former Long Beach mayors: Thomas Clark, Eunice Sato and Beverly O'Neill; Deputy Consul General of Japan, Mr. Suga; L.B. Port Commissioner Doug Drummond; Doug Erber, President of the Japan American Society; David Zanatta, President of L.B. Sister Cities, Inc., and the Tomio Ito family of Ito Farms.



Mayor Tanaka with former L.B. Mayor Beverly O'Neill.

Mayor Tanaka presented a beautiful vase created by the famous Yokkaichi Bankware artisan, **Enzan Kishi**, which was received by **LBYSCA Board President, Jeanette Schelin**.

The LBYSCA set a very busy schedule for the Yokkaichi delegation. We hope that we were able to give them a taste of Long Beach during their short stay, and we look forward to their return and a more extended visit!

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Check out our website to learn about our cultural programs at <http://longbeach-yokkaichi.org>

Yokkaichi Friendship Garden Rededication



In August 1964 many city officials and spectators attended the unveiling of the Yokkaichi Friendship Garden at Lincoln Park in downtown Long Beach. Yokkaichi Mayor Sukenori Hirata and Long Beach Mayor Edwin Wade watched as Miss Yokkaichi cut the ribbon to

the bridge which was a gift to Long Beach from Yokkaichi.

In 1989 the city of Yokkaichi added a Torii gate to the garden as their gift to Long Beach, and over the years, trees and plaques were gifted to enhance the park.



In 2013 the garden was relocated from downtown to **Recreation Park** on the corner of **7th Street and Federation**. The Torii gate and plaques were refurbished and a new Yokkaichi Garden sign was unveiled on November 8 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Long Beach and Yokkaichi Sister Cities.

The 13-member Yokkaichi delegation, LBYSCA Board members, donors and invited guests attended the re-dedication ceremony along with **Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine Director George Chapjian** and his staff who worked tirelessly to create the beautiful garden.

Many thanks to **Professor Keiji Uesugi** and his students at **California State Polytechnic University, Pomona** who contributed to the landscape design as a class project. Cherry trees and crab apple trees were donated by the **Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, SGI, the Consulate-General of Japan in Los Angeles, and landscape firm, S. C. Yamamoto, Inc.**

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Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association Supporting Organizations



Port of Long Beach



City of Long Beach



Earl Burns Miller Japanese



California State University, LB



LB Unified School District



Sister Cities of LB, Inc.



Tomio Ito Family



(From l. to r.) **Theresa Maceyka**, Superintendent, Grounds Maintenance; **Ramon Arevalo**, Bureau Manager, Maintenance Operations; **George Chapjian**, Director LB Parks, Recreation & Marine; **Jeanette Schelin**, LBYSCA Board President, **Mike Vaughn & Pat McMaster**, Board Members; **Mayor Tanaka**; **Jeanne Karatsu & Bonnie Stoepelman**, Board Members; and **Yoko Pusavat**, LBYSCA Board VP.

Many thanks to our photographers

Will Cullen, Bonnie Sharp Stoepelman, Aki & Mike Vaughn, Nick Warren & Scott Warren.



Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City 2014 Board Members

Joe Aihara	Jeanette Schelin
Bruce Easley	Yumi Shibasaki
Victor Fukuhara	Bonnie Sharp Stoepelman
Larry Hill (Honorary)	Elisa Turien
Jeanne Karatsu	Nico Turien
Pat McMaster	Aki Vaughn
Kari Milton	Mike Vaughn
Richard Pastor	Scott Warren
Yoko Pusavat	Roy Wood
David Reinsvold	David Zanatta

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