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Newsletter

March

FOSTERING INCREASED UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE CITIZENS OF SAN ANTONIO AND THE CITIZENS OF JAPAN.

JAS-SA celebrates the 25th Anniversary of the San Antonio and Kumamoto City Sister City relationship with a series of articles and events in 2012.

San Antonio Pioneer Cabin (Kumamoto City)

As a result of the Sister City Agreement with Kumamoto City, San Antonio received the amazing gift of the Kumamoto-En Japanese garden. In following years, then Councilwoman Linda Billa Burke and Mayor Henry Cisneros, began exploring ideas about something in-kind for Kumamoto City. Exchanges between Kumamoto City Mayor Yasumoto Tajiri and his dedicated staff, Gardeners Association, and affiliated businessmen, leaned toward the classic romanticization of the Texas Frontier and began to point to things "architectural". Some expression of the "cowboy and Indian period" was desired, so the design evolution produced what became known as the 'San Antonio Pioneer Cabin'.

Dixie Watkins III, ASLA, a San Antonio landscape architect known for his knowledge and understanding of historical regional culture and architecture, was retained to provide his expertise. Through analysis of con-

struction methods and materials used by the Spanish-Mexican culture, Anglo and German settlers, the design focused on the classic frontier log cabin with the unique design, style, materials, and proportions of cabins that appeared on the edge of the Hill Country. With feedback from both Cities, he prepared architectural drawings and infrastructure. In Kumamoto, Dixie encountered not only amazing hospitality, but also a large group of dedicated City staff and experts to address design, construction and interpretation. Pre-construction issues were handled quickly and effectively during this visit.

The project needed historically accurate construction, so the talented understudy of the late Tyrus Cox (honored Fredericksburg craftsman), C.B Anthony Hopkins was selected. "Hoppy" as he was known, was not just a restoration craftsman, he was exactly what Kumamoto wanted: a living cross-cultural fusion of cowboy



Photo courtesy of Kumamoto City

and Indian persona.

Working with Botanical Garden staff to locate appropriate materials, Hoppy proceeded to complete the reciprocal gift from San Antonio to Kumamoto City. Materials that could not be purchased and shipped from Texas were fabricated from regional resources of the Kumamoto prefecture. Thus, the "tsugi" roof shingles and local "andesite" chimney stone only "reinforced" the ties between the two cities by blending the material culture of both regions into a unified whole.

(See **Pioneer Cabin** on page 4)



SEE YOU THERE!

JAS-SA SPRING GENERAL MEETING on March 18 at 2 pm at the Igo Library, 13330 Kyle Seale Pkwy. (time and place subject to change!) Bring your friends!

Start looking for your fans, kimonos, and cowboy boots! Next JAS-SA General Meeting on March 18th @ 2pm at the Igo Library Reiko Johnson and Zack Kuentz will lead a JASSA dance-off showcasing traditional Japanese Bon-Odori Dancing and Texas Western Line Dancing! Yee haw and Odorimasho!!!!!"

Rakugo!



Artist Kokontei Kikushin performed Rakugo - traditional Japanese Storytelling Comedy at the University of Incarnate Word (UIW) on February 17th, 2012. The event was hosted by JAS-SA in collaboration with UIW, San Antonio's Japanese Company Association and the Consulate General of Japan at Houston and was attended by more than 150 attendees.

In Rakugo, the lone storyteller sits on the stage, using only a paper fan and a small cloth as props. Without standing up, the artist depicts a long and complicated comical story. The story always involves the dialogue of two or more characters; the characters depicted only through change in pitch, tone, or slight head turn. Kikushin autographed tenguji for the audience after the show. His comedy storytelling was well received by both adults and children alike in San Antonio!

2012 Asian Festival

2012 Asian Festival was held on January 28th at the Institute of Texan Cultures. JAS-SA served Yakisoba, Japanese curry, Onigiri, and iced green tea featuring famous Yakisoba masters Zachery Kuentz, Carl Johnson and Ted Hattori. A cultural booth was set up on the side to teach various aspects of Japanese culture including Origami and calligraphy led by Carol Johnson and Tomoe Kumashiro.

JAS-SA would like to express our deep gratitude to the Akagi family for organizing and executing the event.



All proceeds of sales go into JAS-SA's future educational and cultural activities and outreach. Cheers to a good one this year and see you at next year's Asian Festival!"

Passage to the Future

Blue Star Art Center

March 1 - May 5



Passage To The Future: Art from a New Generation in Japan

This exhibition focuses on art produced in Japan at the beginning of the 21st century featuring paintings, sculptures, installations, photographs, and video works by eleven Japanese artists. These artists, taking their subject matter from their immediate surroundings, responding in a similar way to the current state of the world, creating art that strongly reflects their own personal reality.

The March 1st Grand Opening is free from 6:00-9:00 p.m. JAS-SA members are invited to attend to meet the new Consul General Jota Yamamoto from the Japanese Consulate at Houston.

More info: 210-227-6960 or www.bluestarart.org.

Welcome New & Renewing Members for March 2012!

INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY

Bob & Patty Brown
Tim and Lucia Cassler
Aya Cho
Kathleen Devine
Hiroko Fay
Timothy Flores
Yuibi Fujimoto
Crista Harrison
Ted Hattori
Yasuko Kimura
Trenton Kirchdoerfer
Paul Maestas
Joseph Monosmith
B. Noreiga Family

Miharu & Bill Pittman
Miyoko Rushing
Noriko Santos
Joe Sheldon
Sarah Skaggs
Beth Standifird
Jose Tovar
Mitsu Yamazaki
Thomas Zabel

CORPORATE BENEFACTORS

Kai Japanese & Asian Restaurant
Toyota Motors Engineering
Valero Energy Corporation

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Frost Bank
Jingu House Café
Sushihana Japanese Restaurant
Sushi Zushi
Vutex Inc.

NON-PROFIT MEMBERS

Incarnate Word University
Japan Shotokan Karate San Antonio
Lone Star Sumo Federation
San Antonio Museum of Art
UTSA College of Architecture



DID YOU KNOW? The Kumamoto En Japanese garden at San Antonio Botanical Gardens was designed after Suizenji Park's Japanese Garden in Kumamoto with features from Katsura Rikyu Detached Palace in Kyoto? Learn more at www.japanesegardening.org/kumamotoen.

2012 with JAS-SA Shinenkai!



Shinenkai 2012 was held on Sunday, January 8th at the Igo Library. The event was very well attended by the JAS-SA membership including many new members, which were welcomed warmly by JAS-SA President Mimi Yu.

The attendees were treated to a performance on the Koto by Tomoe Kumashiro, who is also a new addition to the JAS-SA community. After the introduction of the 2012 JAS-SA Board, the group enjoyed a wonderful mix of cuisine to celebrate the new year. Many thanks to the JAS-SA

members for contributing so much food and drink for all to enjoy; everyone had their fill and there was still a substantial amount to be taken home. It was great to see so many familiar faces as well as some whom I had not seen in a while.

We all wish everyone a continued healthy and happy 2012 and hope this great event will be the first in a long line of successful JAS-SA events in 2012.

Zachery Kuentz



Tomoe Kumashiro plays Koto at Shinenkai

The 8th Annual Charity Golf Tournament

S.A. Japanese Companies Association

Saturday May 19, 2012 at the The Silverhorn Golf Club of Texas, 1100 W. Bitters Rd. San Antonio, TX 78216.
Registration : 7 am.
Shot-gun play starts: 8 am.

The JCA will donate net proceeds from this charitable event to the Japanese Supplemental School of San Antonio, Hoshuko, and the International Educators to Japan (IEJ) program organized by Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO).

JAS-SA is looking for the players. If you have interesting in, please send e-mail to info@jas-sa.org.

march corporate profiles

NON-PROFIT:



River City Iaido & Kendo Kyokai (RCIKK) was founded in 1999 to promote Japanese sword work.

RCIKK has been a JAS-SA member since 2004, and being a member of JASSA helps it fulfill its mission to share iaido and kendo with the community.

RCIKK is proud to be affiliated with the Houston Budokan and Sensei Darrell Craig, who in turn has strong ties to the Chiba family of Osaka. The sword arts are a family tradition that RCIKK loves to share with JAS-SA and San Antonio.

CORPORATE:



Valero Energy Corporation is a Fortune 50 company based in San Antonio, and through its subsidiaries is the world's largest independent petroleum refiner and marketer. Valero supplies fuel and products that improve people's lives with 16 refineries and 10 ethanol plants stretching from the U.S. West and Gulf coasts to Canada, United Kingdom and the Caribbean.

Valero has always given back to the communities it serves and historically has been a big supporter of Japan America Society of San Antonio. In addition to their corporate membership, Valero has agreed to assist JAS-SA with its programs in 2012!

Thanks to Kai Restaurant:

At the January 29th grand opening of Kai Japanese and Asian Cuisine, Mr. Steve Yang and managing partners presented JAS-SA with a \$1,000 check to support hosting exchange students.

"We are big supporters of cultural and educational exchange between San Antonio and Japan," said Yang. "Kai is proud to be a corporate member of JASSA." The check was accepted by Mimi Yu, JAS-SA president with many JAS-SA board members and general members present.

Kai Japanese and Asia Cuisine is located at 2535 NW Loop 410 at Vance Jackson Road and features authentic Japanese and Asian

CALENDAR

March 1 - Blue Star Art's Japanese Contemporary Exhibit: Passage to the Future. March 1—May 5

March 4th - TAO - The Art of the Drum. Boerne Performing Arts. For more info see <http://www.boerneperformingarts.com>

March 18th - March General Meeting! 2 pm - 3 pm at Igo Library, 13330 Kyle Seale. (subject to change)

March 31st - Mizuume-con 5 (anime) - OLLU University. See www.mizuumicon.com for more info



DID YOU KNOW? Iced green tea and green tea ice cream were invented by Eizo "Kimi" Jungu at the Japanese Tea Garden in Sunken Gardens in San Antonio's Brackenridge Park?

2012– 23rd Japanese Speech Contest!



The Japanese Speech contest was held February 4 at San Antonio College Academic Instruction Center. The students were mindful of manners, remembering to bow and greet the judges with proper etiquette. They introduced themselves and proceeded to deliver their speech.

When the dust settled and the contest was over and it was time to decide on the winners, JASSA board member Mr. Zach Kuentz delivered the welcoming remarks in Japanese and presented the awards. Mr. Charlie Akagi presented certificated to all the students who participated in the contest. Carl and Rieko Johnson were also in attendance to talk about JASSA and pass out membership applications.

JAS-SA would like to thank Yuko Kawabe for all her hard work in running the speech contest.

- Carl Johnson

Pioneer Cabin (continued from page 1)

The project was completed on the grounds of Kumamoto City's Botanical Garden and Zoo. It has become a popular landmark and is near and dear to the people of both Cities.



Thanks to the office of Dixie Watkins & Associates for historical information on this project.

The 23rd Japanese Language Contest Results:

Division 1

- 1st Maricruz Flores (Churchill)
- 2nd Maryclaire Tover (Roosevelt)
- 3rd Thu Nguen (Churchill)

Division 2

- 1st Hayley Nelson (Johnson HS)
- 2nd Cassidy Troup (JASSA) Clerk
- 3rd David Christian (Churchill)

Division 3

- 1st Breven Sandoral (Tafolla MS)

Division 4

- 1st Connor Veal (Churchill HS)
- 2nd Alli Troup (JASSA) Clerk
- 3rd I-Chia Huang (St. Mary's Hall)

Division 5

- 1st Joshua Shupp (SAC)
- 2nd Sara Crespín (SAC)
- 3rd Bradley Gilmore (UTSA)



Japan-America Society of San Antonio
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