



# Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association

Founded 1963



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Newsletter

June 2013

## 2013 Trio Off to Yokkaichi, Japan

Every other year, the Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association (LBYSKA) selects a teacher, one male student and one female student for a three-week cultural visit. Yokkaichi is the host city this year and a delegation of three Long Beach ambassadors will travel as a group and follow an itinerary developed by officials of Yokkaichi.

Trio Exchange applicants were interviewed in March and



2013 Trio  
(from left to right) **Trisha Krug,**  
**Tanya Nguyen & John Huynh.**

two students from Long Beach Polytechnic High School, **John Do Phuoc Huynh** and **Tanya-Thaovy Nguyen**, and Long Beach Unified School District teacher, **Trisha Krug**, were selected to serve as our goodwill ambassadors to Yokkaichi, Japan.

**John Huynh**, a junior in the CIC magnet program at Long Beach Polytechnic High School, has interests in the study of Japanese culture and language, musical and athletic extracurricular activities such as football, dance, and symphonic/jazz band. "For the future I envision myself excelling with the incorporation of my successes in college with Biology, Japanese, music, and dance with various programs that will benefit the society around me, including myself. This is my third year studying Japanese. I enjoy playing my saxophone and guitar, hanging out with friends, dancing, exercising, and dining at restaurants all around California, especially Korean barbecues, chipotles, and boba stores. I am honored to represent Long Beach in Yokkaichi and looking forward to further developing my experiences and knowledge towards Japanese language and culture through exchanging my Vietnamese-American culture in return. Through these experiences, I look forward to utilizing the gained knowledge to benefit Japan and California in any way possible."

**Tanya Nguyen** will be entering the 11th grade next year at Poly. "I would like to major in biotech engineering and minor in east Asian language. I would really like to study and travel abroad, and Japan is on the top of my list!

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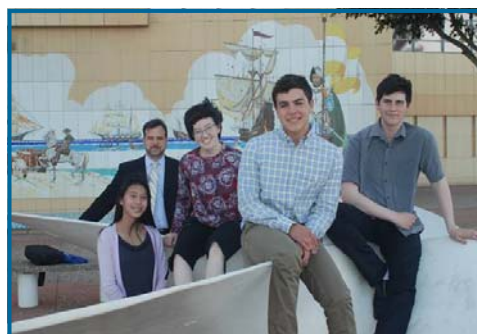
## 2013 Environmental Summit Students

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

Each summer four students and a teacher from Long Beach take part in this annual environmental summit. This year's selections are **Colin Mullen, Andrew Schenker, Katherine Tran, David Turien** and advisor, **Thomas Jelenic**.

Polytechnic High School student, **Colin Keiko Mullen**, will be a senior next fall in the CIC magnet program. She is currently a 6th semester Japanese Honors language student. "I have a passion for the Japanese language and culture and I plan to major in Japanese Language in college. I am currently a string bassist in Poly's Symphony Orchestra, and I have been a member of the LBUSD High School All-District Honor Orchestra for the past two years. In my free time I fill sketch books with drawings that are inspired by anime and manga. I have studied dance for many years and I continue to express myself through free-style dance. I had the opportunity to visit Japan in the summer of 2012, and I am honored to have been selected as a 2013 Environmental Summit delegate. I am looking forward to working with my fellow students to make this a positive and productive summit experience. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent Long Beach in Yokkaichi, Japan."

(Continued on page 3)



2013 Environmental Summit Delegates in front of the Port of Long Beach Building.

From left: **Katherine Tran, Thomas Jelenic, Colin Keiko Mullen, Andrew Schenker & David Turien**

—All photos by Bonnie Sharp Stoeppelman

## Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister Cities to Celebrate 50 Years!

Since 1963 the cities of Long Beach, California and Yokkaichi, Japan have enjoyed a close cultural relationship as sister cities. Since being established by **Long Beach Mayor Edwin Wade** and **Yokkaichi Mayor Sukenori Hirata** in 1963, the cities have annually exchanged students and teachers (Trio Program); sent graduates of Cal State Long Beach to teach English in the Yokkaichi Schools (YEF Program); hosted visiting Physicians in conjunction with Long Beach Memorial Medical Center; and, most recently, worked with the Port of Long Beach in sending high school students to take part in an international Environmental Summit Program hosted every year in Yokkaichi.

The anniversary celebration will begin in July when the 2013 Trio, consisting of a teacher and two students, will travel to Yokkaichi on a 3-week cultural exchange. During their visit they will stay with local families and meet with governmental officials. During the same time period, four other Long Beach students and an advisor, all of whom have particular interests in environmental issues, will travel to the International Center for Environmental Technology Transfer (ICETT) in Yokkaichi to meet with students from Japan and China to study environmental issues facing the three nations.

(cont'd next column)

The official 50th year celebration will take place in Yokkaichi in October and in Long Beach in November. The current plans are for a delegation of Long Beach officials and dignitaries to arrive in Yokkaichi on October 16<sup>th</sup> and attend various events which include visits to many historical and cultural centers, meetings with city officials, and discussions with representatives of Yokkaichi Hospital and the Yokkaichi Board of Education. The events will be capped by an annual Family Musical Festival hosted by the City of Yokkaichi which attracts performers from all over Japan. A special event this year will be a performance by a musical group chosen from the City of Long Beach as guests of the City of Yokkaichi to perform at the festival.

The City of Long Beach and the LBYSCA will host the Mayor of Yokkaichi, **Toshiyuki Tanaka**, and an official delegation from November 6 – November 11. While in Long Beach Mayor Tanaka and his delegation will meet with local city officials and Port representatives, tour various civic projects, and meet with local community and business leaders to discuss developmental issues that are common to both cities. The visit will be concluded with a formal reception hosted by the LBYSCA.

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## Funding for the 50th Anniversary

With the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary coming up along with our Trio, Environmental and YEF programs, the Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association, a 501(c)(3) organization made up of strictly volunteer members, is looking to raise more funds this year than in any previous years. We are reaching out to the Port of Long Beach which has been very generous with the Association in previous years. Japan Airlines has been very generous in discounting travel for our students and working with the very demanding schedule of our programs.

As usual our members have generously pitched in, **but we need everyone's help in finding sponsors for the following:**

- **Family Talent Contest in August** (see page 3)
- **Anniversary gifts to be delivered in Yokkaichi in Oct.**
- **Expenses hosting Yokkaichi Delegation in Nov.**

Any ideas will be appreciated as well as introductions to local groups, businesses and individuals that would be interested in supporting our very important programs. We are requesting that all of our members and friends give our Fundraising Committee introductions to two possible funding sources. The committee will very diplomatically approach the potential donor, but we need to be as active as possible in this endeavor.

Below are the following sponsorships available:

### Yokkaichi Mayor's Dinner Reception in November

Platinum Sponsorship – \$5,000 Level

- Reserved VIP Table for 8
- Meet and greet with the Mayor and Keynote Speaker
- Prominent display of sponsor's logo and on all printed materials
- Recognition in the program, the LBYSCA website and newsletter for one year
- Sponsors will be acknowledged at the dinner.

Gold Sponsorships – \$2,500 Level

- VIP table for 8
- Prominent display of sponsor's logo in program and on all printed materials
- Sponsors will be acknowledged at the dinner.

Silver Sponsorships – \$500 Level

- 4 guest seats for dinner
- Recognition in the program

Bronze Sponsorship – \$250 Level

- 2 guest seats for dinner
- Recognition in the program

All sponsors will also be acknowledged in the August 11th Family Talent Contest at CSULB.

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## Family Music Talent Contest

### *Win a Trip to Yokkaichi, Japan!*

As part of the Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister Cities 50th Anniversary Celebration, **one musically talented family (3-5 related members—vocalists or bands) from the City of Long Beach will be chosen to perform as official guests of the city of Yokkaichi, Japan in their annual Family Music Competition.**



The City of Yokkaichi will pay: Economy class tickets round-trip from LAX, three meals a day, and three-nights' accommodations for 3 to 5 performers.

Types of Music: Any style of musical performance, e.g., Popular, Rock, R&B, Rap, Classical, Country, etc.

No age limit.

**Qualified vocalists or bands must read and sign Rules & Requirements and complete and sign the Application Form found on our website:**



<http://longbeach-yokkaichi.org>

#### Important Dates

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| June 15, 2013    | Application and Audition DVD due   |
| August 11, 2013  | Top 10 Finalists will compete at the Daniels Theatre at California State University, Long Beach. |
| October 18, 2013 | Winning family will leave for Yokkaichi, Japan.  |
| October 19, 2013 | Rehearsal.   |
| October 20, 2013 | Winning family will perform in Yokkaichi, Japan. (The group will perform without compensation.)  |
| October 21, 2013 | Winning family will return to Los Angeles.   |

Watch the video films of the Yokkaichi competition on the official website:

<http://www.city.yokkaichi.mie.jp/music/index.html>

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

## 2013 Summit Team—*Cont'd from pg 1*

**Andrew Schenker** will be a junior at Long Beach Poly High School. "I am interested in Biology and Environmental Science. I originally wanted to pursue a career in medicine or other branches of the medical field, but I have recently been introduced and submersed into the world of ecology and environmental science, in which I am gaining more interest. Next year will be my third year learning the Japanese language. My extracurricular interests are swimming and playing water polo and I also play electric bass and sing in my band. I enjoy watching movies and I look forward to new experiences. The trip to Yokkaichi, Japan will be my first time out of the country, so I am looking forward to experiencing a new culture first hand. I am also very excited for the food, to be honest. I have a soft spot for Japanese food and it will be refreshing to try authentic Japanese cuisine."

**Katherine "Kat" Tran** is also from Poly and a sophomore. "This opportunity to go to Japan as a part of the Environmental Summit program is amazing, and I am ecstatic that I was chosen as a delegate! Ever since I received notice of my acceptance into the program, I've been looking forward to really submerging myself into the depths of Japanese culture and working alongside with them, the Chinese, and other Long Beach students. My interest in the environment has increased by this point, and I hope to, I know it sounds cliché, make the world a better place. When I'm not in school, I'm baking, painting, practicing martial arts, or singing to all sorts of music in my room—although, it's not very good singing at that. I am super excited for this trip. I'm prepared to work with other people, determined to find new ways to improve the environment, and definitely ready to have a good time."

**David Turien's** family has hosted several Yokkaichi exchange students over the years and this year he has the opportunity to represent Long Beach on the Environmental Summit team. David is a sophomore at the California Academy of Math and Science (CAMS) and in his second year of Japanese. "I enjoy being an anchor on my school's debate team as well as the team's secretary. I am looking forward to discussing environmental issues with teenagers from Japan and China. I am hoping to use my debate skills as well as my experiences this summer in Yokkaichi in my future endeavors. I would like to attend university in Japan and plan on studying both engineering and law to eventually become an intellectual property attorney."

**Thomas Jelenic** will serve as the team's advisor at the Summit. "For 14 years I have worked at the Port of Long Beach in the Environmental Planning Division, most re-

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**2013 Summit Team**—*Cont'd from pg 3*

cently as Assistant Director of Environmental Planning. In May 2013, I accepted a new opportunity to become the Senior Ports & Marine Manager for Parsons Brinckerhoff. Over the course of my career, I have worked on every major environmental issue facing Southern California Ports. My interest lies in addressing the environmental issues facing growing ports and the impact on surrounding communities. Often ports bring tremendous benefits locally, regionally, and nationally. However, the negative impacts of ports are more usually concentrated in the local communities. I'm looking forward to seeing how the City of Yokkaichi addressed their environmental issues that improved the life of the community without sacrificing the benefits of having a local port. I'm also looking forward to working with the students to compare and contrast the different approaches taken by Yokkaichi and Long Beach."

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Yoku yatta!

In other words, kudos to the LBYSCA Trio and LBYSCA Environmental Summit interview panel members for their time, hard work and dedication which resulted in the selection of another outstanding group of Long Beach representatives to the City of Yokkaichi:

Bianca Angeles, Yoko Pusavat, David Reinsvold, Jeanette Schelin, Scott Warren, and Roy Wood.

**New Books at LB Public Library**

Yokkaichi City has sent new books to the Long Beach Public Library that are now safely inside the Miller Room/Yokkaichi collection. Check them out when you get the chance.

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**Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association Supporting Organizations**



Port of Long Beach



City of Long Beach



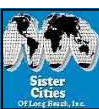
Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden at CSULB



California State University, Long Beach



Long Beach Unified School District



Sister Cities of Long Beach, Inc.

**2013 Trio**—*Cont'd from pg 1*

I enjoy drawing, manga/anime, and listening/dancing to K-pop. I am also working on my Gold Award as a senior in Girl Scouts. There is so much to look forward to in Japan, but I think the most interesting will be meeting other kids my age and exchanging thoughts about our culture, how we're similar and different. Trying some of the food should be fun too. This is an amazing opportunity, one that I'm very thankful to have, and I hope I can be a good representative for Long Beach in Yokkaichi!"

**Trisha Krug** has been teaching grades 3 through 8 in the L.B. Unified School District for 23 years. She graduated from UCLA with a degree in Psychology and received her teaching credential at CSULB and a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Laverne. "I have been married for 22 years and have three beautiful children: Joshua, 21; Joey, 18; and Alyssa, 17. I like to read, travel, watch sports (especially UCLA football and basketball), and spend time with my family. My mother was born and raised in Nagoya. I went to Japan when I was little, so I am looking forward to returning to the country where she was raised. I am also really looking forward to meeting new people while in Japan, learning about their customs and furthering the relationship between the people of Long Beach and the people of Yokkaichi. I am very honored and humbled by being chosen as a Trio member."

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Like Us on FACEBOOK at Yokkaichi-Long Beach Sister City and view more photos of our events!



**Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City 2013 Board Members**

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Joe Aihara            | Yoko Pusavat             |
| Bianca Angeles        | David Reinsvold          |
| Bruce Easley          | Ed Rickter               |
| Victor Fukuhara       | Jeanette Schelin         |
| Larry Hill (Honorary) | Yumi Shibasaki           |
| Jeanne Karatsu        | Bonnie Sharp Stoeppelman |
| Pat McMaster          | Elisa Turien             |
| Kari Milton           | Aki Vaughn               |
| Barbara Parks         | Mike Vaughn              |
| Richard Pastor        | Scott Warren             |
|                       | Roy Wood                 |

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