



Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association

Founded 1963



Volume 3, Issue 2

Newsletter

October 2013

Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister Cities to Celebrate 50 Years!

2013 marks the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association (LBYSKA). In 1963 **Long Beach Mayor Edwin Wade** and **Yokkaichi Mayor Sukenori Hirata** established the sister city union which has enjoyed a close cultural relationship through the years. The cities share four annual programs:

1. **Trio Program**—Long Beach and Yokkaichi alternate sending 2 students and a teacher on a 3-week cultural exchange
2. **Yokkaichi English Fellow (YEF) Program**—Cal State Long Beach graduates assist in teaching English in Yokkaichi schools.
3. **Physicians Program**—Doctors from Yokkaichi learn medical techniques at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center and other hospitals.
4. **Environmental Summit Program**—4 Long Beach high school teachers and a chaperone take part in an envi-

ronmental study program with Japanese and Chinese students in Yokkaichi.

The 50th Anniversary celebration events will take place in both cities:

October 14–23, 2013

A small delegation from Long Beach will travel to Yokkaichi to meet with officials, visit schools, attend a symposium on civic activities, and visit historical and cultural sites.

November 5–9, 2013

A delegation of 15, led by Yokkaichi **Mayor Toshiyuki Tanaka**, will meet city officials, Port representatives, tour various civic projects, and confer with local community and business leaders to discuss developmental issues that are common to both cities. The visit will be concluded with a dinner on November 8, hosted by the Port of Long Beach and the LBYSKA. ///

Fundraising for the LBYSKA 50th Anniversary

The Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association, a 501(c)(3) organization of volunteer members, is looking to raise more funds this year than in previous years to help supplement the expenses of the 50th LBYSKA Anniversary.

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

- Anniversary gifts to be delivered to the City of Yokkaichi in October
- Expenses hosting the 15-member Yokkaichi Delegation in November

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.

Also available are sponsorships packages (*next column*) for the Yokkaichi delegation dinner on November 8, 2013.

If interested in sponsorship packages, please contact Mike Vaughn @ 562-592-9350 or at mike@vaughnlawoffice.com.

Yokkaichi Mayor's Dinner Reception

November 8, 2013
SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

Platinum Sponsorship — \$5,000 Level

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

Gold Sponsorships — \$2,500 Level

- VIP Table for 6
- 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.

2013 Trio Returns from Yokkaichi

Every year the cities of Long Beach and Yokkaichi alternate as hosts to a teacher, one male student and one female student selected to serve as ambassadors on a cultural visit. Yokkaichi hosted this year's trio: Teacher **Trisha Krug** and students **John Huynh** and **Tanya Nguyen** who are now back in Long Beach after a 3-week tour of Yokkaichi.



2013 Trio with Yokkaichi Officials
 Mayor Toshiyuki Tanaka, Trisha Krug,
 John Huynh, Tanya Nguyen, and
 City Council Chairman, Kazuma Doi.

The schedule for the Trio was packed with things to do and see. Wrote Trisha Krug, "I was honored to have been chosen to represent Long Beach as a 2013 Trio member, and the experiences were indeed once in a lifetime opportunities. Since my mother is Japanese, I have

always appreciated the beauty of the culture and language, and it was especially exciting to experience it firsthand. The people I met were warm and welcoming, and the places I visited were amazing.

On this trip I was also able to meet my mother's sister – my aunt – for the first time! Identifying with my Japanese heritage gave me the chance to not only feel closer to it, but closer to my mother and her roots as well. In addition, I was able to get reacquainted with friends from the program that I met years ago when they were visiting America on other exchanges.

This experience also made an impression on me as both a mother and teacher, as I watched the teenagers I accompanied form strong friendships with the teens in Yokkaichi. The interactions between them made all of our excursions just that



The Trio's visit was covered by the Yokkaichi Press.

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2013 Summit Team Returns

Four high school students and a chaperone recently returned from a 10-day environmental study program in Yokkaichi, Japan. The Environmental Summit Program was established by former **Yokkaichi Mayor Tetsuo Inoue** in 2007 who 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 Tianjin, China.



The 2013 Environmental Summit Representatives from Long Beach, Yokkaichi and China with City Council Chairman, Kazuma Doi (left) and Mayor Toshiyuki Tanaka (right).

The students worked together and prepared reports that offered environmental challenges and solutions.

The four selected Long Beach students were **Colin Keiko Mullen, Andrew Schenker, Katherine Tran, and David Turien**. Chaperone **Thomas Jelenic** sent daily reports on their experiences: "The students gave their cross-national presentations on global warming and did a fantastic job!"



Presentation Day

The presentations were well received by the audience. It was a larger than expected audience (the event was

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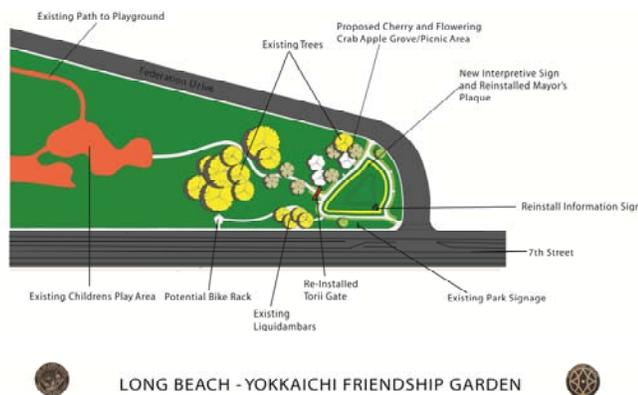
Yokkaichi Friendship Garden

The Yokkaichi Friendship garden will be re-dedicated on **Friday, November 8** in a ceremony to be attended by **Yokkaichi Mayor Tanaka** and his delegation, Long Beach City and Port of Long Beach officials, and invited guests.

In 1964 Long Beach and Yokkaichi cemented their relationship as sister cities in a Japanese garden dedication ceremony in Lincoln Park (next to the Long Beach City Hall). Yokkaichi Mayor Sukenori Hirata, Miss Yokkaichi, and 13 other Yokkaichi city officials attended the ribbon-cutting event that was hosted by Long Beach Mayor Edwin Wade and dignitaries, with over 1,000 Long Beach citizens in attendance.

The Lincoln Park Japanese garden was moved earlier this year to the Yokkaichi Friendship Garden in Recreation Park on the corner of 7th Street and Federation. Cherry trees, donated by the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens and the Consulate-General of Japan in Los Angeles, have been planted, as well as crab apple trees donated by S. C. Yamamoto, Inc. The re-vamped garden will have a Japanese bridge, refurbished torii gate, and a new 2'x3' commemorative sign.

Special thanks to **Professor Keiji Uesugi** and his students at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona who contributed to the design, and the Long Beach Parks and Recreation Commissioners and staff.



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2013 Yokkaichi English Fellows

Three graduates of California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) were selected this year to assist in teaching English in our sister city, Yokkaichi, Japan: Victor Nguyen, Courtney Roe, and Alexander Smith. Their backgrounds, beliefs and love of teaching are impressive and the selections made by the Yokkaichi Board of Education were excellent.

Victor Nguyen was born in Can Tho, Vietnam, and received his degree in International Studies. Victor taught three English conversation classes during a study-abroad program and summer internship in Cheonan, South Korea. "While growing up the only language spoken at home was Vietnamese. During school hours, I was surrounded by English, so I understand the difficulties of learning a foreign language. I also believe that my personal Vietnamese-American background can provide students with a unique view of American culture. We are living in a intercultural world and I believe that nurturing an appreciation for foreign languages and cultures is a must."

Courtney Roe received her BA in Japanese. She studied abroad at Waseda University in Tokyo for one year. "By becoming an English Teaching Assistant, I will be able to help teach the future generation of Japan the importance of learning English and how it will open doors of opportunity in their careers. From daily interactions with each student, I will become that bridge between America and Japan that this program searches for. Through the YEF Program, I know I can become the teacher I want to be and be the one to make a difference in the lives of my students."

Alexander Smith graduated with a degree in Asian Studies and also spent a year in the study abroad program at Waseda University. "I understand the difficulties of learning another language. I believe students need a little encouragement, a slight push, or a new approach to how they are trying to learn. I am still new to teaching and I believe that the YEF program would be a great step in enriching my teaching abilities."

The three teaching assistants left for Yokkaichi on July 30th and are currently in full teaching mode as Yokkaichi Teaching Fellows.

About the Yokkaichi English Fellows (YEF) Program

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.

**Applications for next year's
Yokkaichi English Fellows Program
will be available on our website in
February 2014.**

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

2013 Trio—*Cont'd from pg 2*

much more enjoyable. I think I can speak for all of us in the Trio when I say that this opportunity and the memories we made will forever change our lives.”



The 2013 Trio with former Yokkaichi Trio members.

Former Environmental Summit Representative Wins Scholarships

The Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association is excited to announce that **Kevin Melvin**, a 2011 Environmental Summit Program representative to Yokkaichi, Japan, was recently awarded several scholarships: \$59,000 from Bates College, \$3,000 from the Port of Long Beach, \$1,000 from the Long Beach Financial Credit Union, and \$1,500 from the Lakewood Pan-American Association. He also received a 500 Service Hour Medallion from Long Beach Poly.

It is obvious that Kevin is a young man who has a very bright future. Congratulations, Kevin, we are proud of you!

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Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association Supporting Organizations



2013 Summit Team—*Cont'd from pg 2*

advertised with television cameras present). After the presentations, including some by international exchange students at the university, we left to see the Yokkaichi City Festival. The festival was a wonderful city event that packed the streets. Following the festival, the entire ICETT group had a farewell dinner at a local Italian restaurant. It was a very fun day.”

The trip made an impact on the students as evidenced in the words of Colin Keiko Mullen: “I wanted to share what a wonderful time I had as a 2013 Environmental Summit Delegate. All of the tours, presentations and activities that were arranged for us by ICETT and the City of Yokkaichi were very informative and fun, and they gave us a great way to get to know the delegates from Yokkaichi and Tianjin. My favorite part was interacting with all the other students because I love knowing how similar we are even though we come from different cultures. By the time we worked together on our presentations, it was easy to work together, even through the language differences.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity. This is an experience that I will never forget. ありがとう ございました。Arigatou Gozaimashita.”

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Applications for next year's Environmental Summit Program will be available on our website in February 2014.



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

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