

姉妹都市



SEATTLE-KOBE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

Volume 10, Issue 2

Our Fifth Decade of Friendship

August 2006

7th Annual Sister City Jazz Day at Dimitriou's Jazz Alley

The Seattle-Kobe Sister City Association, Kobe Trade Information Office and The Pacific Jazz Institute at Dimitriou's Jazz Alley are pleased to present Kobe, Japan's 2006 Vocal Jazz Queen, **Mami**, on Monday, September 11, 2006 at Dimitriou's Jazz Alley. Supporting Mami will be the **Bill Anshell Trio**. The show starts at 7:30pm, doors open at 6pm and admission is FREE! SKSCA will be asking for a donation to support our jazz exchange program.

Please make reservations for drinks or dinner by calling Dimitriou's Jazz Alley at (206) 441-9729 or visiting their website at www.jazzalley.com.



"I am very happy and excited to sing before a large audience at Jazz Alley in Seattle WA. This Sister City Jazz Day experience will allow me to move on to the next step with much more confidence and determination toward jazz music. I look forward to seeing you and hope that you all have a great time with my singing." — MAMI

Read more about Mami on the insert flyer!

2005 Greater Seattle Japanese Community Queen Sarah Matsumoto visits Kobe for 2006 Kobe Matsuri in May

As the 2005 Greater Seattle Japanese Community Queen, I had the opportunity to participate in many wonderful events and festivals. Although I enjoyed all of them for many different reasons, the 2006 Kobe Matsuri was perhaps my favorite.

When I traveled to Kobe, I had never been to Japan before and was unsure what to expect.



2005 Greater Seattle Japanese Community Queen Sarah Matsumoto presents gifts to Kobe Mayor Tatsuo Yada during a courtesy call.

Of course, I had seen plenty of photographs and spoken with others about Japan, but I think it can be difficult to truly know the feel of a city unless you have traveled there. After spending some time in Kobe and attending Kobe Matsuri, however, it is clear to me why Kobe and Seattle have such a long-standing relationship as sister cities.

Both Kobe and Seattle are port cities, meaning that they can often be the first point of entry for visitors their respective countries. The inherently welcoming feel of the city of Kobe was true of its residents, too; I was warmly greeted by so many different people that I could not help feeling instantly at home.

Whether I was sailing around the port for the opening blessing of the festival, participating in a tea ceremony at Ikuta Shrine, or just strolling around the harbor, it seemed that peo-

(Continued on page 6)

A Big THANK YOU To Our Corporate Sponsors!

We greatly appreciate the support of the following businesses and organizations:

Founder Level

Dimitriou's Jazz Alley
Sankei Travel
Seattle Art Museum
YMCA of Greater Seattle

Benefactor Level

Gobo Enterprises
Hyogo Business & Cultural Ctr.

Patron Level

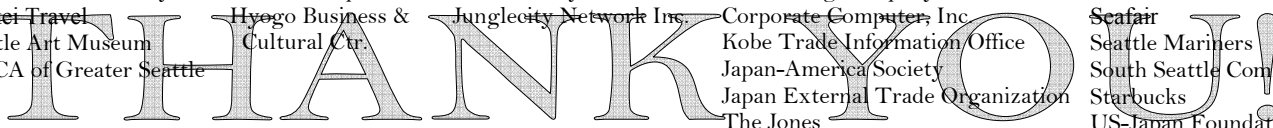
Griffith Way
Junglecity Network Inc.

Supporter Level

The Boeing Company
Corporate Computer, Inc.
Kobe Trade Information Office
Japan-America Society
Japan External Trade Organization
The Jones
Nintendo of America
NT Group

Supporter Level

Port of Seattle
Scafair
Seattle Mariners
South Seattle Comm. College
Starbucks
US-Japan Foundation
Uwajimaya
Yamato Transport USA



Message from the Chair



I hope you've been having a fun summer! SKSCA has been having an active spring and summer, what with our jazz audition event and sending **Courtney Fortune** and **Gail Pettis** to Kobe, hosting the Kobe Festival Representatives **Mr. Ryosuke Ike** and **Ms. Aya Amabe**, attending the Sister Cities International conference in D.C. and our Kobe Day with the Mariners event. We said goodbye to Kobe Trade & Information Office Director **Takeshi Yamamoto**, and welcome new Director **Kenji Uematsu**. And of course we're gearing up our planning for next year's 50th anniversary of our sister city relationship!

Already in the works for the 50th anniversary are an anniversary delegation to Kobe in May 2007 in conjunction with the **Trade Development Alliance's** trade mission, and a large exhibition of art from the Kobe Museum will come to the **Seattle Art Museum** in October, 2007. We're creating a calendar of events for 2007 – see our tentative calendar in this newsletter. **If you have an idea or a program your group is already working on and would like to connect it to the Kobe 50th celebrations, please let us know.**

We are also working on our **anniversary history book project**. If you are a part of a group or organization that is planning something with your Kobe counterparts, or have photos and memories to contribute to the history book, please make sure to contact us.

If you are interested in traveling to Kobe with the anniversary delegation May 17-23, 2007, please contact me to add you to the information list and we'll be emailing more details as we confirm them - karinzangg@yahoo.com.

As always, we could not continue our exchanges and programs without your volunteer time and financial support. Both individual and corporate membership invoices have been mailed– we thank you in advance for renewing and donating to SKSCA! All donations to SKSCA are tax-deductible; SKSCA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with IRS tax identification #23-7034425.

We look forward to working with you to plan a fantastic calendar of events and celebrations to mark our 50th anniversary next year!

Warmly,

Karin Zangg Black

Seattle's 21 Sister Cities marched in the Seafair Torchlight Parade

The joint committee of the 21 sister cities sponsored a group of representatives from each sister city wearing a sash and holding a flag march in the Seafair Torchlight Parade on Saturday, July 29, 2006. A big thanks to SKSCA representative **Miho Kashimura** who marched with other sister city folks wearing our Kobe sash and Happi Coat, and waving a Japanese flag.

New Kobe Trade Information Office Director – Kenji Uematsu

We're pleased that **Kenji Uematsu** and his wife **Chinami** have arrived in Seattle! They are living on Mercer Island, and orienting themselves to our city. Their favorite places so far are around Lake Washington and Safeco Field – I think we have some more baseball fans! Check out the photo of Kenji and Chinami at the 9th Annual Kobe Day with the Mariners event! Kenji and Chinami's hobbies are skiing and traveling, and Chinami also plays the piano.



Chinami and Kenji Uematsu and friends enjoy the 9th annual Kobe Day with the Mariners at Safeco Field on August 8th. The SKSCA group of 40 people cheered on Ichiro and Kenji and enjoyed seeing Consul General Tanaka throw the first pitch and other Japan Night festivities, as well as a great win against the Tampa Bay Devil Rays!

They've visited Seattle before moving here, and are always impressed by the similarities between Seattle and Kobe. They've also traveled around the U.S. before, including visits to New York, Orlando, Chicago, Boston and Oregon. Welcome the Uematsus when you see them!

50th Anniversary 2007 Calendar of Events

We're mapping out the year of events to celebrate the 50th! If your group or organization is talking with a group in Kobe and is planning something either in Seattle or Kobe, please let us know so we can add it to the calendar!

- January 16 Kobe Earthquake Remembrance at Kobe Bell
- March 3rd Annual Jazz Vocalist Audition
- April Cherry Blossom Festival
- April 21 Sister Cities Reception highlighting: Kobe
- May Jazz Performance in Kobe
- May 11-19 Trade Development Alliance - International Study Mission to Fukuoka and Kita Kyushu; also Kobe
- May 17-23 Seattle Sister City Delegation travels to Kobe**
(Sister City celebration in Kobe will include: events and symposiums with Kobe-Seattle Sister City Association, City of Kobe and other counterparts; Sister City 50th Celebration Reception, Sightseeing, Ceremonial Gift Presentation, Seattle Photography Exhibit and more!)

July (end of July/early Aug) Host Kobe Delegation led by Mayor Tatsuo Yada

(Sister City celebration in Seattle will include: Seafair Torchlight Parade participation, 10th annual Kobe Day at the Mariners event, other events with SKSCA and counterparts, Sister City 50th Celebration Reception, Sightseeing, Ceremonial Gift Presentation, Host Lunches for Kobe guests at homes, Historical Photo Exhibit of sister city, sister port relations and more!)

- September 8th annual Kobe Jazz Vocalist Queen Concert in Seattle
- September ENMA's Aki Matsuri – 10th anniversary
- October 15 Opening of Seattle Art Museum's Kobe Nanban Art Exhibit**
Possible small delegation of dignitaries, business trade mission from Kobe
- Oct 15 '07 – Jan 6 '08 Seattle Art Museum's Kobe Nanban Art Exhibit
- November Sushi and Sake Fest

Seattle's Jazz Vocalists Gail Pettis and Courtney Fortune sing at the Kobe Jazz Queen Contest in Kobe

The 7th Kobe Jazz Vocal Queen Contest was held on May 6 – 7, 2006, as part of The Shinkaichi Music Street 2006 Festival. This was the second time for Seattle to be represented, the first being the special event held on October 1, 2005, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and the 100th year anniversary of the birth of jazz in Japan.

From a field of over 100 applicants, sixteen Japanese vocalists were selected to perform at the two day event. The performers sang a variety of standards and not-so-standards from "Route 66", which was performed by four different vocalists, to the unusual "Seafood Mama". After much deliberation by the five judges, which included **Katsuhisa Hattori**, one of Japan's most prestigious composers, and **Minoru Ozone**, a jazz legend in Japan, the winner was **Mami** who sang a touching version of "You'd Be So Nice to Come Home To". In addition to her crown, which was given to her by last year's reigning queen **Shoko**, who also entertained the crowd with a swinging set, Mami received a framed picture of Jazz Alley.

In addition to the great performances by the competing vocalists, two exciting special guests, vocalist **Lorna Cifra**, and vocalist/saxophonist **Furuya Takashi** added to the festivities. Finally, it was time for **Courtney Fortune** and **Gail Pettis** to be introduced, the two winners of the 2nd annual Seattle-Kobe Female Jazz Vocalist Audition. Courtney sang "Fly Me to the Moon" with a rubato introduction and ran through a number of styles on the theme, including Latin and swing, then threw in some 'scatting' for good measure. Courtney greeted the crowd and said that, "jazz is about feelings and I am glad to sing something from the heart." Gail Pettis then sang, including the beautiful ballad "May I Come In". Gail likened music to dance since each allows for improvisation, and commented that she was "so excited to see how much Kobe has a love for jazz, just like Seattle."

SKSCA hopes to continue this reciprocal exchange, and is planning the 3rd annual Jazz Audition for March, 2007. Special thanks go to **Yoshio** and **Yumi Imai** the organizers who took care of everyone while in Kobe. And a big thank you to our sponsors: **Dimitriou's Jazz Alley** and **Sankei Travel**.

William Montgomery



**Check out
SKSCA
on the Web!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

**SAVE THE
DATE!!**

Sept. 9 & 10.....Aki Matsuri, Eastside Nihon Matsuri (Bellevue)

Sept 10.....Jazz Picnic—featuring Mami! For more info:

http://www.ponyboyrecords.com/files/festival/jazz_picnic.html

Sept 117th Annual Kobe Jazz Day at Dimitriou's Jazz Alley

Sept 24-Oct 3....Silver College Group visits Seattle

Nov 9Sushi & Sake Fest at the Westin. For more info:

<http://densho.org/about/sushisake2006.asp>

31st Annual Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival - Thanks to all the Volunteers & Call for Donations

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make our SKSCA kimono-yukata dress-up booth in cooperation with the Japan-America Society such a success again this year, especially JASSW's **Tomoko Miwa**, **Ruth Nishi** and **Naoko Arai**, HBCC's **Erin Erickson**, KTIO's **Devin Tokizawa**, and SKSCA's **Bruce Robb** and **Iku Skeels!**



We're already planning for next year, and would like to call on our members and friends for any donations of yukatas, kimonos or accessories such as fans, purses, umbrellas or other items that might make that "dressing up in kimono or yukata" special! We especially need men's and children's yukata or kimono. Donations to SKSCA are tax-deductible; SKSCA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. We're accepting donations anytime during the year for our booth.

If you have anything to donate, please let chair Karin Zaugg Black know at karinzaugg@yahoo.com or 206-733-9810.



Volunteers dress visitors at this year's kimono-yukata dress-up booth

Also visit the Kobe Trade Information Office (KTIO)'s newly updated website at: www.cityofkobe.org

Reflections on Kobe – Gail Pettis

My Kobe experience can probably be summed up by one word: Awesome. Not as an exclamation with little underlying thought (“Awesome, man!”), but because it is literally awe-inspiring to travel halfway around the world and find in other people a passion for something which transcends all differences in culture and language.

Preparing for my first trip to Japan was made easy with lots of help from **Karin Zaugg Black**, **Mari Carpenter** and the **staff at Sankei Travel**. I was glad to have my sister **Terre** join me from Chicago. Terre’s plane arrived in Osaka at the same time that **Courtney**, her mom **Leilani** and I arrived from Seattle. We were met by our wonderful hosts, **Yumi** and **Yoshio Imai** and taken to our hotel.

Over the next few days, we enjoyed meeting and becoming acquainted with many people, including our hosts, **Yumi** and **Yoshio Imai** from Art Farmer Company, **Eri Yagi**, director of the Kobe-Seattle Sister City Association, **Kazuhiko Hatano**, Planning Director for Dentsu, **Mr. Ito**, also from Dentsu, **Kyoji Ueda**, from the City of Kobe International Affairs Office and **Takeshi Kobayashi**, also from the Kobe City office. It was fun to spend time with many of the contest judges as well. We also had fun with two Seattleites: musician **William Montgomery** and his wife **Satsuko** who were traveling in Japan at the time, and **Marissa**, a friend of Eri Yagi, who is an English language teacher in Kobe.

The highlight of the trip was the actual competition held at the beautiful KAVC, especially Sunday night when we got to meet and talk with many of the contestants and enjoy the hospitality they extended to us. It was fun to observe the encouragement and support they gave each other. For much of the second night, we all sat together backstage and watched the monitor. Each singer was greeted with loud cheers and applause by the group as she returned backstage.

A memorable instance occurred backstage when, at one point, the bass player played an unexpected, playful little riff and we all broke out in laughter. This was one of many moments that showed just how much music is, as they say, the “universal language”. And then, before I knew it, it was time to say good bye.

After a week of being welcomed as an honored guest and treated with so much kindness, I hope that our Seattle visitors will enjoy a similar experience this coming September—Awesome!

Gail Pettis

Reflections on Kobe - Courtney Fortune

I have recently returned from an amazing experience, traveling to a new culture to represent Seattle as a jazz vocalist. I’d like to express my thanks to the Sister City Association for the amazing opportunity to experience Kobe, Japan for the first time. Without the guidance of the association, I would have not been able to see the places we visited, or found the wonderful people we met along the way.

Standing with the microphone that night at the Vocal Jazz Queen Contest, on a stage that exists on the other side of the world, I realized how special this experience really was. Since the moment we arrived in Kobe, I felt truly welcomed into the community. We had many delicious dinners and exciting nights on the town, constantly meeting new people and learning more about Japanese culture. We were escorted by our lovely hosts Mr. and Mrs. Imai, who were there for us along our funny adventures; working through the language and navigating our way around the beautiful city.

Performing in Kobe was an unforgettable experience. Kobe’s love for jazz music shines in its people, it is evident in the way they treat their guests and the way they treat their artists. After I was given the opportunity to work with these musicians, I came home with a deep impression of the level and quality of the talent the jazz players have. I felt the same way once I met the performers at the Vocal Jazz Queen Contest. Being backstage with singers of varying backgrounds and experience but connected by the same kind of force was very inspiring for me. These women were so supportive of each other and so driven that their collaboration with the phenomenal players, producers of the event, and the audience made the show a brilliant success.

Ever since I was very little I have dreamed of going to Japan, and I cannot tell you how much of a gift it was to be able to fulfill that dream while doing what I love most. I plan to return to Kobe someday, motivated by what I discovered and what I have yet to uncover. I realize that music is not only the great communicator or a way to bring people together, but it is also a universal language. This language and common love for the art is something that everyone can share, making it impossible to get lost in translation. My deepest gratitude to the Sister City Association for this opportunity, thank you for the memories.

Courtney Fortune



SKSCA’s 2nd Annual Jazz Vocalist Audition winners Gail Pettis and Courtney Fortune pose with the Kobe Jazz Queen Vocalist Winner Mami at the Jazz concert event in Kobe in May.

Kobe Silver College Group to visit Seattle Sept 24-Oct 3, 2006

Following last year’s visit by senior students of the Kobe City Silver College, 7 students from the International Exchange and Cooperation Course of Kobe City Silver College are planning to visit Seattle from September 24th – October 3rd. This group of 55-75 year-old Japanese seniors is looking forward to visiting Nikkei Concerns and interacting with SKSCA members and Japanese Americans living in the Seattle area.

Call for Volunteers to help with the visit

We’re looking for the following support for their visit:

1. someone to host a potluck dinner party at their home for approximately 20-25 people maximum on the late afternoon/evening of September 26, Tuesday;
2. interested Japanese-Americans and Americans (aged 55-75) to discuss “Life after retirement” during the morning of September 27, Wednesday.
3. other volunteers to interact with the group while they are here, perhaps by participating in some of their “walks around Seattle” on Sept 30th, Saturday and Oct 1st, Sunday.

If you could host a dinner party on Sept 26th, are interested in being part of a discussion on Sept. 27th, or otherwise interested in interacting with the group, please contact Devin Tokizawa at 206-622-7640 or devint@cityofkobe.org.

Kobe Festival Representatives participate in Seafair



Seattle hosted two student festival representatives from Kobe as part of our annual Seafair exchange. **Mr. Ryosuke Ike** and **Ms. Aya Amabe** were selected as this year's Kobe representatives to take part in the weeklong stay from July 25-30, 2006. The annual exchange offers the Kobe students a chance to experience life Seattle-style and also creates an opportunity for our many volunteers to learn more about the city of Kobe and Japanese culture. SKSCA would like to specially thank the host families, **Don and Pam Baugh, Sharon Victor** and **Tom Crisalli**, for taking great care of the ambassadors while they were here. Also, thank you to following volunteers: **Fred Taucher** and **Annette Lee** for the sight-seeing jaunts, **John and Karen Loff** for hosting this year's barbecue, **Terry Nakano** and **Mineko Hasegawa** for their Seafair Coronation involvement, and **Kenji Uematsu, Devin Tokizawa**, and **Nathan Eddings** for program support. The students went home happy and excited about Seattle!

Trip to Kobe - Sharon and Tom

We wanted to meet local people in Japan, rather than do the "tourist route" when we finally were able to go there. Plans to visit had been delayed for eight years because of family obligations and we were ready!

We wanted to meet local people in Japan, rather than do the "tourist route" when we finally were able to go there. Being a Seattle native, I had heard of Seattle-Kobe Sister City and made e-mail contact through **Stacey Jehlik**. I offered to carry messages or gifts to the Kobe counterpart and asked if we could meet someone in that organization when we arrived in Kobe in June.

We arranged to meet **Eiko Makita**, a Board member of KSSC and City of Kobe administrator, for a brief cup of coffee after work. Imagine our surprise when **Yamamoto-san** (recently returned to Kobe from the Kobe Trade Information Office in Seattle) found us in the coffee shop resting our feet. He welcomed us and asked if we would be available for dinner with the Kobe-Seattle group instead. This was an offer not to be missed!

Not only did they host us at a "welcome back Yamamoto-san" dinner, but Eiko walked us from our hotel to the restaurant and back afterward. This was after a full day's work and in high-heeled shoes. We were served an excellent meal of tuna fillet with pasta, salad, and other courses. We offered our pitiful gift of Almond Roca candy.

Conversation was lively. Several of the 12 members participating spoke excellent or adequate English. Nearly everyone had a question or comment for us and topics ranged from "Where will you travel next?" to "Why do Americans wear tattoos?"



Kobe-Seattle Sister City "welcome back Yamamoto-san"

Seven members of the Kobe-Seattle group are coming to Seattle in September and, of course, we offered to help them. Now that we have invited half of Kobe to stay with us and have friends there, we have joined the Seattle-Kobe Sister City Association!

Sharon Victor

SKSCA Board Member Mari Carpenter Visits Kobe

At the end of June, **Mari Carpenter** traveled to Kobe and met with the Kobe Jazz Queen Contest organizers, **Yumi and Yoshio Imai**. They discussed and planned for the 7th annual Kobe Jazz Queen event to be held at Dimitriou's Jazz Alley on September 11, 2006. They also discussed ideas about improvements for the third Seattle Kobe Female Jazz Vocalist Audition that will be held in March, 2007.

Mari also visited the International Affairs Office at Kobe City Hall to say hello to the former Kobe Trade and Information Office directors, **Mr. Kyoji Ueda** and **Mr. Toshihiko Ono**. They both fondly reminisced about their time in Seattle and send their greetings to SKSCA members and friends. She also met **Mr. Teruaki Ishitobi** from the same office. Of course, the Seattle-Kobe Sister City 50th anniversary was on everyone's minds. Planning will kick into high gear this fall in both Kobe and Seattle. The calendar of events for the 50th on both sides sounds exciting! Stay tuned!

My Trip to Seattle - Ryosuke Ike

My name is **Ryosuke Ike**. As you know, Seattle and Kobe have been sister cities for almost 50 years. This year **Aya Amabe** and I were the ambassadors of Kobe for the Seafair festival. Through this trip to Seattle as an ambassador, I learned a lot of things that are really worth while for my life.

On July 25th, we got on the plane at Kansai International Airport, and it took 10 hours from Japan to travel to Seattle.



Ryosuke, Aya and host families

It was my first time to come to Seattle. During our stay, we went to our host family's houses and we saw many places, such as the salmon ladder and Boeing flight museum. Everywhere that we went was new for me, so I

really enjoyed the places and the atmospheres.

On the day of Seafair festival, at first, I was really surprised about how huge the festival was because it is quite different from our Kobe Festival. A huge number of parade cars, many people wearing brilliant costumes – everything made me really excited! And when the parade started, it was even more exciting. Most of the people sat beside the road waving hands to us and I waved back without hesitation.

We met a lot of kind and nice people during our stay, and I have great memories. The Parade and BBQ were the most interesting for me, because it was the first time to meet with a huge number of people and it was the first time to talk with Americans on a variety of topics. So, through this trip I could really enjoy Seattle, and could feel the real America. If I have a chance, I want to visit Seattle again. Thank you very much everyone!

Ryosuke Ike from Kobe

SKSCA participates in Sister Cities International

Sister Cities International (SCI), of which all twenty-one sister cities of Seattle are members, celebrated its 50th year since its founding by **President Dwight D. Eisenhower** and marked the occasion at their July 13-15, 2006 conference in Washington, D.C. The mission of SCI is to “promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, & cooperation - one individual, one community at a time.”



Seattle delegates join together in Washington D.C. to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of Sister Cities International by then President Dwight D. Eisenhower – left to right from the top row are: Mari Carpenter, Ruperta Alexis, Karin Zaugg Black, Bill Stafford, Bunny Schmidley and Tsering Yuthok.

Approximately 1,200 people from around the US and globe spent the three conference days sharing sister city program successes and discussing how to promote more international exchanges. A large part of discussions also centered around “Citizen Diplomacy” and how to increase the number of citizen diplomats. In other words, how can the international exchange community increase the number of non-governmental people involved in international exchange by hosting or interacting with international visitors or encouraging more people to travel abroad? The conference ended with a call for attendees to help increase the numbers of people involved in international exchanges.

Many readers of this newsletter may not realize it, but you are probably already counted as a citizen diplomat! Have you hosted an exchange student? Have you supported a young person in your group of family and friends to travel abroad? Are you active with your local sister city program or other international organizations? Have you interacted with people from different cultures, either here at home or abroad? Then you’re a citizen diplomat!

We had a small group from Seattle representing our sister city program. **Tsering Yuthok**, Seattle’s Sister City Coordinator, **Bill Stafford**, Director of the Greater Seattle Trade Development Alliance and SCI Board Member, **Millie Russell** representing Seattle-Mombasa, **Bunny Schmidley** representing Seattle-Nantes, **Ruperta Alexis** representing Seattle-Limbe, in addition to **Mari Carpenter** and **Karin Zaugg Black** representing Seattle-Kobe.

Continued top of next column...

“If we are going to take advantage of the assumption that all people want peace, then the problem is for people to get together and to leap governments—if necessary to evade governments—to work out not one method but thousands of methods by which people can gradually learn a little bit more of each other.”— President Dwight D. Eisenhower, September 11, 1956.

It was evident by all of the programs being held by the sister city organizations and associations from around the country that we can all be proud to be contributing to this effort of learning about each other. We invite SKSCA members and friends to help expand the numbers of citizen diplomats by encouraging friends to participate in sister city activities and perhaps host an international visitor or two or three! If you are interested in learning more about “Citizen Diplomacy,” visit www.citizen-diplomacy.org. You can also learn more about Sister Cities International by visiting www.sister-cities.org.

Aki Matsuri – September 9 & 10

Don’t miss the region’s favorite fall festival - Eastside Nihon Matsuri Association’s Aki Matsuri!

This year’s festival will be held during the weekend of September 9 (Saturday) and 10 (Sunday), 2006, at the Bellevue Community College’s (BCC) main campus located in Bellevue, WA. To learn more about what will be happening at Aki Matsuri, visit: www.enma.org.



Tsugaru Shamisen performer Matsudasan

(JAPANESE COMMUNITY QUEEN cont. from page 1)

ple were happy, friendly, and excited to share their culture with me. Even during the festival parade with rain pouring down, people still came out with their umbrellas; smiling, waving, and celebrating their city. That dedicated spirit is what I love about Seattle—rain or shine, we enjoy our city too!

My visit to Kobe was so special, but also brief. It was long enough to show me what an amazing place Kobe is, but just short enough to entice me to return again soon. Even though my reign as Queen has come to an end, I hope to continue my work to strengthen our sister city relationship. Kobe may be thousands of miles away, but it has found its place in my heart.

*Sarah Matsumoto
2005 Greater Seattle Japanese Community & Cherry Blossom Festival Queen*

SKSCA sponsors film at Seattle International Film Festival this year

This June the SKSCA sponsored a Japanese film at the Seattle International Film Festival called, “Linda, Linda, Linda,” a 2005 film by director Nobuhiro Yamashita about aspiring teenage rock star students at a Japanese high school. SKSCA was pleased to sponsor the film and work with SIFF this year. SKSCA received great publicity at the opening night gala and throughout the festival with our logo featured at all the movie screenings and newsletters distributed at all the movie venues. To learn more about the Seattle International Film Festival, visit www.cinemaseattle.org.

Sankei Travel of America

Sankei Travel is a multi-branch full-service travel agency that has been providing top-rated travel services for both domestic and international travel for over 30 years. The Seattle branch is located at Lenora Ave. and 6th St. in downtown Seattle. With 21 offices worldwide and still growing, Sankei Travel is a team of travel professionals who provide kind and careful service to each and every customer. By working with its affiliated offices around the world, the Seattle branch can provide the most economical fares available. It can offer special rates that are not available from your current location, but that are available strictly locally, that is, locally to other locations around the world. In addition to special fares, Sankei handles Japan Rail Passes, hotel and rental car reservations, insurance, package tours, discount business fares, and more! They can make package tours based on where their customers want to go. They can formulate the best tours, at low prices, and also offer group and student discounts. By efficiently utilizing exchange rate fluctuations, Sankei is able to "make magic," converting exchange losses into exchange gains. Their daily objective is to make their customers happy, and they work hard to satisfy their clients by providing great services and wonderful deals. Wherever you are, Sankei Travel can help you complete your trip at a price you can afford!

Sankei Travel welcomes inquiries in either English or Japanese!!

Sankei Travel of America – Seattle Branch
2033 6th Ave., Ste. 251, Seattle, WA 98121
Tel: 206-728-7130 Toll Free: 1-800-801-4069
Fax: 206-441-6730
Email: Sankei@sankeiseattle.com



CORPORATE MEMBER PROFILES

NT GROUP, INC.

Outsourced Print Production

In the past, companies grew by adding to their core offering. That time has passed. Companies are now under increasing pressure to streamline operations. By unbundling services, forming strategic alliances or outsourcing certain capabilities, they can save costs, provide better shareholder value and focus on core competencies.

This trend is particularly apparent in the area of print production. More than just brokering printing, today's outsource print production providers operate as consultants, advisors and extended team members. Companies searching for ways to improve the bottom line are finding that outsourcing their print production capabilities provides a better final product, is easier on the budget, is more efficient and takes sometimes onerous tasks off their desks.



NT Group operates as an outsource print production company and works with clients by providing creative services consulting to improve internal processes and buy printing.

President Tish Johnson focuses on buying print services, streamlining the print procurement process through on-line tools and helping printers expand their service offerings by working with other printers that have complementary capabilities. Often outsourcing print production does not involve out-of-pocket expenditures for company clients, as the outsource group uses its buying power to get better prices from printers and passes savings onto clients, taking the markup as its fee.

NT Group, Inc is a Certified WBE and offers clients the extensive vendor relationships, reduced costs and the collective expertise of a dozen professionals with decades of broad industry experience.

NT Group, Inc.
843 S. Kenyon St., Seattle, WA 98108
Tel: 206-766-9288 Fax: 206-764-4696
Email: tish@ntgroup.net

New Membership/Membership Renewal/Volunteer Form August 2006

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Country _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Please enclose your mailing label if there are any changes. Thank you!!

SKSCA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, IRS tax identification # 23-7034425.

Membership dues are a tax deductible donation.

Individual: \$30 Family: \$50 Senior/Student: \$15

Corporate and Major Gift Levels

Supporter: \$125-\$249 Patron: \$250-\$499 Benefactor: \$500-\$999 Founder: \$1,000-plus

_____ I am a **current** member renewing my dues and I have enclosed \$_____.

_____ I am a **new** member and I have enclosed \$_____.

_____ I am interested in volunteer opportunities. Please send me more information.



SEATTLE-KOBE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

c/o Stacey Jehlik
3115 NE 65th St.
Seattle, WA 98115 USA

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE, WA 981
PERMIT NO. 5503