

International Outlook Lima Sister Cities Association



June 2014

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A Message from the President

Welcome to Summer!

It is great to finally enjoy warmer days. After a long winter, it's great to see that the great outdoors has come back to life.

These last 6 months have been very busy. The first of the year got off to a cold and blistery start. The first meeting of the year was canceled due to a winter storm with extreme temperature drop. So we had our very first electronic meeting. I think it went well and the business of the month was taken care of.

February was not any easier. We canceled again but able to re-schedule on the following Sunday afternoon.

By the time March rolled around we were saying sayonara to our new HET, Ross Short. He arrived in Harima-cho without a hitch. He got off the plane, dug his heels in and is off and running. I am looking forward to seeing him in a few weeks.

April allowed us to say hello and welcome home to Kyle and Nubia Moore. They were in the area for a few days. Unfortunately, I was out of town but several LSCA Board members and Mayor Berger were able to join them for a Mexican dinner.

We had a cleanup day on May 17th to spruce up the Japanese Garden. It is ready for summer visitors as they walk, run, jog, and bike along the path. During these warm days, please take the time to visit our Japanese Garden.

In June our Japan delegation will leave. In January, we had the first meeting with our 10 Japan Youth Exchange students and delegation. We have met monthly except in April. The students are very active but they maintained their commitment to LSCA. They have attended the meetings, participated in the Friendship Walk, and helped with the Japanese Garden cleanup. They have practiced and studied customs, language, and food. They are ready! Hopefully you will be able to hear firsthand about their experiences at the General Meeting.

All and all it has been a good first half of the year. We are beginning preparations for the Japan delegation visit in August.

Hope to see you at the June General Meeting.

Have a safe and pleasant summer,
Sylvia Clark



Japan Committee Report

Submitted by Chair Keiko Hahn

Greetings!

Time is getting near for the Youths to leave to visit Harima-cho! One more orientation at the New Creation Church on Allentown Road on June 8th remains at this writing. We'll pack all the gifts to Harima-cho people at that time. Flight is arranged, suit cases packed, Lima students have their Harima-cho host names and e-mail addresses and started to communicate. Only thing left is to depart to Japan to see new sights and friends!

Friendship Walk fell on unseasonably cold day. We wore little extra clothing (Except young people who can endure the cold) and walked. We had TV coverage and it was broadcasted on the News. I don't know the exact amount but believe we raised several hundred dollars for the Youths Exchange Program. Thanks to the people who came and walk on the cold day!

We finally have wonderful warm weather with blue sky with plenty of warm sunshine! LSCA members weeded, pruned and mulched the Japanese Garden that is located by the Ottawa River Corridor between S. Elizabeth and S. West Streets. Weeping cherry trees took hard hit and most of buds were dead and didn't bloom on time. I was ever so happy to find a few blossoms were blooming although it was out of season! I am hoping we'll have trees profuse with fragrant pink blossoms next year.

You should see the garden after we weeded and mulched the site! Weeds were choking the Memorial Stone site. What a difference it makes after diligent workers patiently dug out the obnoxious weeds. Bright purple irises standing proudly, and white rimmed hosts accents the area. It was disheartening that there was only one mum out of 7 survived vandalism and past severe winter. Another casualty of the winter was the Japanese maple, and we had to dig it up.

Big thanks for the hardworking members who clean up the garden. I was very pleasantly surprised to see Kiwanis President Candy Newland came to help clean up the garden. THANKS to all the people who helped beautify the garden!

We'll start planning for receiving Harima-cho people from August 20th (Wed) to 25th (Mon). They'll arrive Dayton at 8:07 p.m. and leave from Dayton on 10:37 a.m., if plan doesn't change. We'll plan City Tour (mandatory), and hosts will have Free Time with guests, Big Event is LSCA's picnic where we'll have American Pioneer experience. Harima-cho guests tastes variety of home cooking dishes, and enjoy bon fire. (Please contact Keiko Hahn, (419-225-3816) if you are interested to host, it will be fun!)

Have a fabulous summer!



Some that came to help clean up the garden.



Some of the walkers that came.

General Membership Meeting



When: Wednesday, June 25, 2014
Where: New Creations Lutheran Church
2701 Allentown Road.
Time: 6:30 p.m.



Agenda Items Include

- June Travelers Report on Their Home Stay Visit
- Committee Reports
- August Guests
- Future Plans

Please come, bring your favorite covered dish to share, see old friends, meet new ones, and hear the latest news! Beverages will be provided.



Fundraising Committee

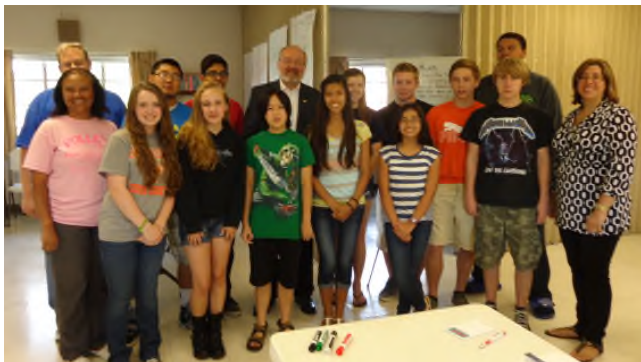
Thank you to everyone who supported us in our Fundraising activities this year. Your support enables us to continue our Youth Scholarship Fund thereby creating opportunities for the youth in our area to learn and experience other cultures.

We will be having restaurants visit to be raffled off at the General Meeting again this year. The tickets will run 6 for \$10.00 or \$2.00 a piece.

Friendship Walk

Thank you to all who helped make our 5th Annual Friendship Walk on May 17th a success especially to our Gold Sponsors:

Ashwin & Shama Amin
Bowsher License Bureau
St. Rita's Medical Center
Ron Spencer Real Estate
Don Sadler & Alberta Lee



Students attending an Orientation with Mayor Berger, Chaperones Sylvia Clark, Jeffry Bucher, Travelers, Dr. Madeline Agosto, Caleb Norton, Nicole Patricio Agosto.

India Miller, Issei Miller, Garret Norton, Jennifer Patrick Daniel Patricio Agosto, Ben Phipps, Brandon Shadley, Natalie Patricio Agosto, Lily Schumacher, and Lillian van Wyngaarden

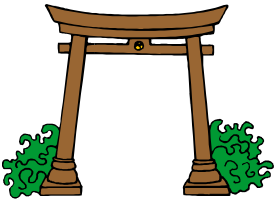


Welcome New Members

Douglas & Lynn Norton Robert & Laura Mell
Maxine Smith Roland & Carol Van Wyngaarden
Michael & Kerrie Miller James & Laurie Patrick
Dr. Manuel Patricio & Dr. Madeline Agosto

Your support will help to ensure our continued growth and the success of our International Mission.

Thank You



Notes from Japan

A letter from our Harima-chō English Teacher Ross Short

Hello LSCA,

This is Ross Short. I am currently the ALT in Harima-Cho, Japan. I'd be honored if I could share with you how my life has been here thus far.

Overall, things have been going very well. I am fortunate in that I can usually acclimate pretty quickly to new scenarios, so it didn't take me long to get settled in. My apartment is perfectly placed between the a few markets and the school. So, everything is a short bike ride away. If I need something a little more specific, I can just go about ten minutes further from the market and get to the next city. As far as day to day life goes, I've been very happy. I love living near the river and traveling everywhere by bicycle has been very refreshing.

Mami Ishikawa has been a life saver. Without her I would have been lost. More than once I've had to stop by city hall to ask her a question and she always assists me with a smile. Most of the time she even accompanies me. She's a wonderful person.

As Kyle warned me, it has been a challenge becoming suddenly illiterate. Though I've been trying to learn the written language, not being able to read signs and packaging can be very challenging. I've bought more than a few meats I couldn't identify until I cooked them. And, admittedly, there were some I still don't know. You get used to the mystery though.

Teaching at the school has been great. The teachers have all been very kind to me. They all helped me as much as they can, and made the transition less stressful. Though, I still have no idea what they talk about during morning meetings... or ceremonies... or really anything. I've gotten fairly good at following suit though. I'd never taught a whole class of students before, so it was a bit challenging at first. I've gotten into the flow of it though. I try to get a little better at it each day. I enjoy teaching a lot more than I thought I would.

The most difficult part, by far, has been being away from family and friends. It has been far more of a challenge than I would have thought. I am fortunate I that I am very close to my family and have a very close group of friends. So, though I've enjoyed my interactions with the people here very much, I have found it extremely frustrating not being around people I've grown close to over the years. But, sometimes you just have to push on, and so I go.

That being said, I get on by staying positive and try to enjoy my new experiences to the fullest. I am eager to see what else comes my way.

I have attached a few photos of me with some of the people I met. I even got to meet up with the family who hosted my visit to Harima-Cho 8 years ago! I attached a photo of them as well.

Hope you are well. I look forward to seeing the group of students coming in June.

Best, Ross



After the Welcome Party



Sukiyaki Party in Akashi