



Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute

September, 2007

PJCI Annual Bazaar • October 7, 2007

The Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute's Annual Bazaar will be held on Sunday, October 7, from 11:00 to 4:00. Like last year, a collection of arts and crafts vendors will be there to sell their wares. They include clay, polymer and paper items by Mini-Mono (http://www.etsy.com/shop.php?user_id=48283), whimsical charms, gifts and jewelry by Clayvision (<http://www.clayvision.com>), and Mariko III, which specializes in purses and accessories with Hawaiian and Japanese prints. This will be an excellent time to begin your shopping for Christmas!

The bazaar will also feature a variety of good food, including sushi, udon, chicken kushiyaki, spam musubi, Chinese chicken salad, and snow cones. There will be martial arts demonstrations by our aikido, kendo, kyudo, naginata, and judo dojos, and an exhibit of bonsai from the Pasadena Bonsai Club.

The Pasadena Nikkei Seniors will be manning a booth selling

their popular hand made crafts, and there will be a classroom open displaying the school work of the Pasadena Gakuen students.

Sushi preparation will begin in the morning at 8:30 in the auditorium. Volunteer help is always welcome...no experience necessary!

The bazaar will conclude with the raffle drawing, which features the many prizes that are always generously donated by the merchants in the greater Pasadena area.

The Annual Bazaar is the most important fundraiser of the year for the PJCI. Proceeds not only benefit our various organizations, but also help to fund the many improvements that are necessary to maintain our center.

Raffle tickets are included in this mailing. We ask for your support and participation in this year's event. Mark your calendar now, and make it a point to come to the bazaar on October 7.

Kodama Taiko 2007: It keeps getting better! By Rick Babington

Kodama sent 4 members to Seattle in August to participate in the North American Taiko Conference, a bi-annual event that drew nearly 600 taiko players from the US and Canada. We participated in workshops presented by taiko masters. In addition, one of our members, Walter Clarke, brought home the Raffle Grand Prize: A new 20-inch Taiko Drum!



We had a quiet July with only one performance at the "God Loves Beauty" festival in Hollywood. The pace picked up during Nisei Week with the Nikkei Games Opening Ceremonies performance, followed by a full show at JANM for the "Courtyard Kids", and we capped off the week with a Mochitsuki performance at the JACCC during the "Taiko Gathering".

As we head into Fall, it's time for the PJCI Bazaar October 7th. Kodama Taiko will be on hand selling the most delicious Spam Musubi and Chinese Chicken Salad you have ever tasted! Stop by our booth and pick up one (or maybe two?) and listen for the Thunder as we demonstrate the power of the drum with a short performance.

Upcoming performances:

September 29th Noon: Watts Towers – "Day of the Drum" Public performance

November 4th Noon: Aquarium of the Pacific – Public performance

November 17th 8:30pm: Women's Club of Orange – "Hobby Products Int'l." – Private performance

Kodama is available for weddings, festivals, corporate events, and private parties. We are currently made up of 14 performing members and 3 understudies. We will be auditioning potential candidates for 2008 the first week of September.

If you are interested in our performing group please contact our Director Karren Tsutsui: info@kodamataiko.com

PJCI Website
<http://www.pjci.org>

First Presbyterian Church of Altadena

Fall Festival

The **First Presbyterian Church of Altadena** will hold its annual *Fall Festival* on Saturday, September 15, from 3:00pm to 8:00pm. Chicken teriyaki, somen, chirasushi, baked goods, hamburgers and other foods will be available to satisfy the biggest appetites, and there will be a variety of game booths for kids of all ages to enjoy. Beginning in the early evening, a variety of performers will entertain everyone with singing and dancing. One of the entertainment highlights will be Nalako Kaui Kawe Kiulani, a local hula dance troupe, who will perform several dances. Raffle tickets are now available for purchase. For more information, please contact the church office at 626.791.4271.

The church is located at 2775 Lincoln Ave, Altadena, 91001.

Bruins News

The **Pasadena Bruins** will hold its 8th Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, November 12, 2007 at the La Canada Country Club. The tournament will have a shotgun start at 10:30 am and be played in a four-man scramble format. Proceeds from the tournament will provide scholarships for college-bound high school students who have participated in the Pasadena Bruin organization. Recipients will be selected for their performance in high school and their contribution to the community. For more information, contact Jerry Matsukuma at 323.839.3751

Pasadena Nikkei Seniors News

A reminder to all PNS members: please renew your 2008 membership with PJCI at the annual bazaar on October 7. All PNS members shall renew their 2008 PNS membership at the New Year's Lunch, which will be held the first Sunday in February, 2008.

PJCI has recently spent \$140,000 in repairs and new additions in maintaining its property and facility that is generously offered to PNS for our use free of charge. Therefore, as you support PNS, please support PJCI by renewing your 2008 membership, and if possible, make a donation. That would be appreciated.

Our next lunch is scheduled for September 29, 2007 at PJCI with a \$1 charge. Call Kiku Matsumoto (626) 794-0240 for reservation by September 24, 2007.

Pasadena Buddhist Church

Sept. 15thRummage Sale 8:00-2:00pm
Japanese antiques and collectibles
Sept. 19th**Fund Raiser at Marie Callendar's** on Foothill Blvd. (11AM-9:30PM)
Magic Show 6:00 - 8:30 PM
Oct. 6.....GOURMET DINNER fundraiser
4:00 -7:30 PM Dine-in
4:00 - 6:00 PM Take-out

Friendship 2007

Pasadena – Mishima Summer Youth Program and Tour



Friendship 2007, the student exchange program established in 2002 by Bryan Takeda and the Mayor of Mishima, recently had its sixth renewal in Japan. Below is Bryan's account of the eleven whirlwind days experienced by the 31 locals lucky enough to make this trip.

On August 10th, thirty one eager travelers met at LAX to embark on Friendship 2007. The next eleven days would take them from Tokyo to Hiroshima with several stops in between. Of the thirty one travelers, nine high school students would participate in Friendship 2007, the Pasadena – Mishima Summer Youth Program. The participants were Lauren Babamoto, Andrea Chiu, Joseph Dearden, Melia Ishihara, Carly Matsukuma, Miaka McClenahan, Megan Musashi, Courtney Takeda and May Woo. The program included a five night home stay with Mishima families and a week of sightseeing, traditional Japanese culture, the Mishima Summer Festival, experiencing everyday Japanese life and a wonderful Farewell Party.

Upon our arrival in Narita International Airport, we were immediately greeted with a big smile from our guide, Yoshie Matsumoto. She would be our leader for the next 10 days. Our first full day was in Tokyo, where we visited the Imperial Palace and National Diet Building, the Edo Museum, the Asakusa Temple, and the Harajuku/Omotesando shopping district. At the end of the day, the 9 students and 2 chaperones boarded the bullet train to our sister city of Mishima.

For the next two days, while the exchange students were in Mishima, the tour group made an early morning visit to the Tsukiji Fish Market, then continued on to Yokohama, Kamakura, Hakone and Shuzenji, on the Izu Peninsula, before they arrived in Mishima for the Summer Festival.

On our first morning in Mishima, we were introduced to Mishima students who would participate in the program. Several of the students were friends we had come to know from our program in Pasadena last year. It was a great feeling to see and renew our friendships. Soon we were off to a busy day that included visits to the Mishima Grand Shrine, a traditional Japanese lunar calendar publishing house, a traditional, family run dye company and a visit with Mishima Mayor Koike. After our formal meeting with the mayor, we then rushed off to meet our host families for the next 5 days. The Aoki, Fujii, Kawamura, Omura, Tsukamoto and Tsukitani families made us feel welcome with their smiles and warm greetings.

The next two days in Mishima included a day trip to the beaches of Matsuzaki and a beautiful boat cruise in Dogashima and a free day with our host families. On Thursday, we were joined by the rest of our tour group for an “easy” hike to the 6th level of Mt. Fuji, followed by an encounter with the turbulent weather that surrounds Mt. Fuji...85 degree weather, a thunderstorm and then a very unusual summer hail storm! The next morning, the students experienced the noble art of Kodo (incense) and in the afternoon the entire group got together for dancing in the Natsu

Matsuri Noheibushi Parade with our Mishima friends. The day concluded with an emotional farewell party. We all wished that we could extend our stay with our friends.

The next morning, after our tearful goodbyes to over 20 people who met us at the Mishima train station, we left Mishima for Kyoto via bullet train. Our guide, Yoshie, was there to comfort us and lead us on the rest of our adventure. On our arrival to Kyoto, we immediately toured Kiyomizu Temple, Kinkakuji (the Golden Pavilion), Sanjusangendo and the Gion District, where we were fortunate to see a few Geisha and Maiko on their way to their engagements for the evening. We settled into our traditional ryokan (Japanese Inn) rooms following our Japanese style dinner.

The following day (Sunday) took us to Nara, where the Todaiji Temple houses the largest statue of Buddha in the world's largest wooden structure, then to Osaka Castle and lots of Osaka shopping and arcades. A few of us were fortunate enough to be joined by Yoshie, who showed us the popular shopping areas and joined some of the girls to take pictures in the very popular photo booths that are found everywhere in Japan. Osaka is a very exciting and fashionable city but very different from the more cosmopolitan Tokyo.

Our next stop was Hiroshima...a two hour bullet train ride from Osaka. With our tour bus waiting, we quickly headed to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial and the Peace Museum. Walking through the park around the Hiroshima Dome (one of the few remaining structures) and offering a prayer at the Peace Memorial, one can only think of the lives that were lost. After viewing a documentary movie, we continued through the museum looking and trying to imagine what it must have been like after such a horrific strike against humanity. It was a sobering experience that will be a constant reminder of the tragedy of war.

On our last day in Japan, we took a morning ferry to Miyajima and to Itsukushima. There we walked through the seaside town and through the beautiful shrine and the famous “floating” torii gate out in the shallow waters. It was a nice way to end our visit to Japan. After the long flight home, we were suddenly confronted with our normal lives, only to be reminded of our memorable visit from our photos, notes and souvenirs...



KENDO NEWS

It's real busy time in the world of kendo. We recently participated at the Nikkei Games (Aug. 12) and the Nisei Week Tournament (Aug. 19). Congratulations to Tami Higure from our sister dojo in Arizona, who took 3rd place in the 3-4 dan division at the Nikkei Games. Upcoming events:

Sept. 2 - All California Open Kendo Tournament (Fresno)

Sept. 30 - SCKF Team Championships

Oct. 21 - Promotional Exams

If you'd like more information on these events or other dojos, please visit the SCKF website at www.eanet.com/sckf