

International Outlook Lima Sister Cities Association



June 2012

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Established April 28, 1994

A Message from the President

Dear LSCA Members,

Well we welcomed in the summer with extreme weather conditions again. Last year at this time we had huge storms, tornado warnings, excess rain accompanied by chilling temperatures and then extreme heat and this year a very mild winter, unusually warm spring with May wrapping up with the extreme heat, usually reserved for July/August. Another year to remember the extreme ups and downs.

One thing you can count on is the reliability of your LSCA Board to work hard on your behalf, to help bring about activities that promote a community bond beyond our Lima/Allen County borders.

On Wednesday June 27th we will have our General Membership Meeting please come and join us in a time of camaraderie and celebration. See details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Note also that in August we will be welcoming our Japanese friends from Harima-cho. As you read through this newsletter you will find details about needed hosts for this home-stay activity. This experience is very successful for both the host family and the guests. You will be surprised about your feelings for your hometown when you see it through the eyes of our August visitors. It is an amazing opportunity.

Hopefully you will all enjoy a memorable and pleasant summer. When planning your calendar please include time to share with us in the LSCA activities in the upcoming months.

I invite you to become involved with LSCA. We have a range of committee's that vary in interests such as: the Japanese Garden that always needs attention by those who enjoy the outdoors and gardening; the Japanese Committee that involves a variety of activities including youth educational experiences, exchanges and adult interests; there is also the Fundraising Committee or if you prefer serving as a board member that opportunity is also available. You can be as involved as your time and interests dictate. We encourage you to join us in making LSCA a valuable learning tool in the Lima, Allen County Area.

I hope that our sharing with you about LSCA will nurture your interest and involvement with us. I close by challenging you to come and become an active LSCA member. Invite your friends and co-workers to become members and learn more about our purpose, goals and events. We are your officers and want this to be your association.

Enjoy Your Summer!

Sincerely,
Karen Phipps



Japan Committee Report

Submitted by Co-Chair Mary Buckley

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

—Leo Buscaglia, author (1924-1998)

Hosting a traveler from Japan is an opportunity to present ourselves—as individuals, as families, and as a community—in the best possible light, to be on our best behavior, so to speak. All that's needed is a little forethought and a sense of adventure! Hosting can provide the opportunity to—if not turn a life around—at the very least enrich it deeply. And what an opportunity it is! How often do we get to be literally the embodiment of our country to a foreign visitor, a positive representative of American culture and hospitality? When you host, you will *become* the U.S.A. to your guest(s)—and Ohio and Lima, too! Volunteering to host is a conscious choice to be your best, show our city at its best, and make a very grateful new friend.

Don't be intimidated by my saying that you will BE our country, state, and city to your guest(s)—or my comment about the necessity of forethought. Our visitors are yearning for an authentic American experience and will appreciate your ordinary as their extraordinary. And the LSCA visit schedule, a reasonable plan for your free time with your visitor, and some flexibility allow for many spontaneous bonding moments, which often provide visitors and hosts alike with their favorite memories.

We're expecting a group of approximately 17 travelers from Harima-cho, a mixed group of students and adults. The group will arrive by bus from the Dayton airport the evening of Wednesday, August 22. Daytime Lima-area activities planned for Thursday and Friday are scheduled to accommodate hosts' work schedules yet end early enough for evening fun. Saturday, August 25, is an entirely free day for guests and hosts to spend together, with more free time on Sunday before and after the farewell party, to be held once again and ever-so-graciously at the home of Mary and Dick Smallwood. Early in the morning of Monday, August 27, the group will head to the Dayton airport for its return flight home. It's a whirlwind tour of Lima highlights, to be sure, but one with many meaningful opportunities to make a good impression and represent Lima positively, if only we don't underestimate ourselves!

You've hosted before and want to host again? Woo-hoo! Then you know the fun you're sure to have! New to hosting but eager to take the plunge? Yee-haw! You won't regret it! Please find the hosting application attached or pick one up at the general meeting on June 27. Considering hosting but unsure? Thinking about it but have questions (Is my house too small? What should I feed my guest? How will we communicate? What should we *do* together? Etc.)? Please contact one of the Japan Committee Co-Chairs listed below for insight, information, and encouragement.

LSCA President Karen Phipps khipps1@woh.rr.com 419-991-4339
Mary Buckley mbuckley2@woh.rr.com 419-331-7504
Keiko Hahn keikoh@roadrunner.com 419-225-3816
Sandra Liechty phoebe@bright.net 419-645-5103

Hosting Application Deadline is July 15!

General Membership Meeting



When: Wednesday, June 27, 2012
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, meet old friends and hear the latest news!
Beverages will be provided.*

A special word of appreciation to Michelle Britt a 2010 Youth Traveler to Japan for her tireless work as she earns her Golden Award in Girl Scouts. Michelle and the Elida Honor Society came to the LSCA Garden Clean-up Day May 12th and helped mulch, prune, trim and clean.



Thank you to the Elida students, adults and the LSCA Members for making the Japanese Garden a lovely spot to be enjoyed by the community.

David Adams, Jeff Bucher, Aletia Clark, Carl & Sandra Liechty, Kristine Mack, Matt Neeley, Karen Phipps, Hannah Rhodes Forest Adams, Leah Bohn, Alyssa DiNardo, Lexi Neeley, Kaylynn Noriega, Andrew Madley, Jenni Point, Ben Phipps



Wed. June 6th at New Creation Lutheran Church



Fri. June 8th at HIFA Welcome Party in Harima-chō



Welcome New Members

Akounda Blakma Alysha Clark
James & Deanna Shine Belinda Stone

Lima Allen County Convention & Visitors Bureau

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

Japan Committee Meeting

Because of the General Membership Meeting being held on the 27th the Japan Committee will meet:

Wednesday June 20th 7:00 P.M.
Trinity United Methodist Church
301 West Market Street



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.

Buffalo Wild Wings

Thank you to all who attended our second event at Buffalo Wild Wings on March 28th. We raised a little over \$232 down a little from last year but never the less helped in raising the needed funds.

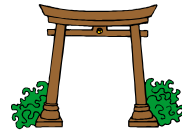
Friendship Walk

Thank you to all who helped raise \$1,533 and made our 3rd Annual Friendship Walk on May 19th a success especially to our Gold Sponsors:

- Anonymous Donor
- Bowsher License Bureau
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Bowsher
- Gasdorf Tool and Machine, Inc.
- Gillis Chiropractic Clinic
- Happy Daz Restaurants
- Husky Refinery
- Alberta Lee
- Ron Spencer Real Estate
- St. Rita's Medical Center
- Superior Federal Credit Union
- Tom Ahl Family of Dealerships



Pictured from left: Kathy Luhn, Sandra Liechty, Ardath Sunderland and her Dachshund Eydith



Notes from Japan

A letter from our Harima-cho

English Teacher Kyle Moore

Dear LSCA members,

Greetings from Harima-cho. Spring came much later this year to Hyogo prefecture. Nubia and I went to the cherry blossom festival at Himeji Castle with some friends on Saturday the 7th of April and it was chilly and breezy. Even though the cherry blossoms were not in their full splendor, there were still many to see that day and hundreds of people endured the chill to appreciate their beauty. I hope this means the Japanese summer will be cooler too!

Of course spring also means the start of a new school year in Japan. The past two years I have been a member of the second year team of teachers. This year I expected the same and was very surprised to find out that I would be a part of the first year team. I'm also teaching many more classes in the first year and I won't be teaching at all in the third year. I was initially a little disappointed as I felt I was abandoning the third year group. They were, after all, first year students my first year as a teacher here. However, the first month of class has been really great. The first year students are so eager to begin studying English and are so easily astonished by my mere presence. I'm determined to maintain their interest in learning English throughout the year. Usually students start to become disinterested in English class at some point in the year, whether it be because they don't like their teacher, the subject or the class.

Last year at the beginning of the year I remember thinking I wasn't so interested in teaching first year because the material they cover is so basic. After all, they start by learning how to write the alphabet and phonics. Now I realize how important a good start is for the students and their attitude towards English class. It's a great opportunity for me to contribute.

I know many people around town are looking forward to the LSCA delegation's visit, including Nubia and me.

Best regards to all.

Sincerely,
Kyle