

International Outlook Lima Sister Cities Association



June 2013

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A Message from the President

Hello LSCA Members,

I take pride in not only being a member of this great organization, but also being given the opportunity to serve as the president. I look forward to the challenges, rewards, and learning experiences that come with the role and will work vigilantly with officers, committee chairs, and members to continue our mission and make our association stronger.

Since taking office in January, we have been very busy with activities:

- * March - Multi-Cultural Expo
- * April – Buffalo Wild Wings Fundraiser
- * May - Walk-a-thon at Heritage Park
- * June - General Board Meeting and a Picnic at Heritage Park with our HET Kyle Moore and his wife Nubia. They will only be in Lima one day, Sunday June 16, 2013 between 1:00 P.M and 3:00 P.M. I know this is Father's Day, but remember they have traveled thousands of miles to share with us and are providing a great service for us in Harima-cho. Let's try to give them a little of our time to show our appreciation.

I Hope To See You There.

As you get out and about the city of Lima this summer, please visit the Japanese Garden. It is a wonderful place to walk by or stop for a rest. Interested in the Japanese committee? Feel free to contact Keiko Hahn 419-225-3816 or Sandra Liechty 419-645-5103.

Have a safe and fun summer,

Sylvia Clark



Japan Committee Report

Submitted by Co-Chair Mary Buckley

International Expo

Once again the LSCA participated in the LACNIP International Expo. This year's event, the 7th annual celebration of our area's diversity, was held on Sunday, March 3, at St. Rita's Auxiliary Conference Center. Though convenient and beautiful, the venue was smaller than previous locations, and the LACNIP coordinators are evaluating other places to possibly hold them in the future in order to give the event room to grow. One positive to the smaller space was a cozy feeling for all in attendance and that of a "full house" for the musicians and dancers. It certainly was a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon: free admission, entertainment, hands-on activities, and food samples!

Many Lima area students attended with their parents, and everyone relished the community spirit and Lima pride evident throughout the diverse occasion. This year's theme, "It's a Small, Small World," captures the sense of peace and interconnectedness the displays presented along with their countries' art, crafts, and cultural items.

Sandra narrated our exhibit to all the curious people who stopped by, Keiko demonstrated Japanese calligraphy by writing names, Mary folded origami with children, Sharon distributed *sembei* samples (watch out for those wasabi peas!), Ray's donated a beautiful sushi platter for display, and Agnes, Toshiko and Hannah, Tom, and many others assisted at our corner booth, which was literally overflowing with beautiful Japanese dolls, toys, books, pottery, art, and fabrics from Keiko's and Sandra's personal collections, gathered from their years spent living in Japan. Sandra even set up an authentic Japanese room, complete with tatami mats, a low table, and a game of Go!



Kyle and Nubia in Lima June 16!

We all enjoy reading Kyle Moore's letters about his and Nubia's adventures in Harima-cho, teaching English, Spanish, dance, and vegetarian cooking; learning the Japanese language and customs and acquiring all manner of cultural understanding; and positively representing Lima as our HET (Harima-cho English Teacher). Kyle, from Bryan, Ohio, and his wife, Nubia, a native of Nicaragua, traveled to Harima-cho in the spring of 2010 and haven't been home since. Their families are awaiting their return for a visit this month....and so are we!

Kyle's parents in Bryan, his sister, brother-in-law, and a niece they've only met on Skype in Columbus, and many groups of friends throughout Ohio, including the LSCA, are eagerly planning gatherings to welcome and re-connect with Kyle and Nubia. We will hold our summer general meeting during their trip home as a chance for members to meet them (or become reacquainted, if you were fortunate enough to travel to Japan and meet them there!) and thank them for the wonderful work they've been doing in the Harima-cho schools, IFA organization, and community.

Please bring a dish to share at our general meeting picnic Sunday, June 16, at the Veterans' Shelter at Heritage Park on Reed Road at 1 p.m. As you choose and prepare your dish, keep in mind that both Kyle and Nubia are vegetarians. Table service and drinks will be provided.

We have heard nothing but enthusiastic praise for both of Kyle and Nubia since they arrived in Japan, and we want them to know how much we appreciate their hard work and dedication. Kyle is contracted as an English teacher at Harima Junior High School through March of 2014.

General Membership Meeting and Picnic with Kyle and Nubia



When: Sunday, June 16, 2013

Where: Veteran's Shelter Heritage Park

Time: 12:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M



Agenda Item Include

- Committee Reports
- Future Plans

Please come, bring your favorite cover dish to share, (we plan to eat at 1:00) meet Kyle and Nubia and hear the latest news! Beverages will be provided. We know it is Fathers Day but it is only day Kyle and Nubia could visit so feel free to bring your family.



Ever wonder what a student has to do to be selected for the Youth Exchange Program and how they're selected?

LSCA Youth Exchange Program Selection Criteria

1. Student must be in the 9th 10th or 11th grade during the year of their visit.
2. The student will be of exceptional character, showing maturity in areas of human relationships and respectful behavior.
3. The student will have achieved high academic standards in school and show competency in both oral and written skills.
4. The student will be highly recommended by three people who know him/her well (other than family members).
5. The student will understand that they represent Lima, Ohio and Lima Sister Cities Association while they are in the host city and they will be prepared to share their cross-cultural experiences upon return as called upon. A program of their experiences may consist of any of the following suggestions: written material, visual items, display boards, videos or oral presentations.
6. Lima Sister Cities will provide an application packet to be completed by the student. The selected student and parent must be willing to abide by the conditions, objectives and goals of LSCA as stated on the application form.

Friendship Walk at Heritage Park

A few sprinkles greeted early arrivals on Saturday morning at the Heritage Park shelter house. As Lima Sister City members and friends continued to arrive, register and turn in contributions, the weather cleared and sunbeams poked through the tree cover. The warming air prompted many to shed their jackets. Spirits were lifted at the sight of sunshine and blue skies and old and new friends arriving. Some members brought along family members including happy dogs with wagging tails. Good fun and fellowship was had by all as small groups broke off to begin the circle trail through the woods. A visit to any Johnny Appleseed Park has a way of refreshing and energizing all who visit as was evident by the smiles, hugs, laughter and lively chatter of children on the monkey bars. What a great annual tradition for an LSCA fundraiser!

Thank you to all who participated and contributed to this year's Friendship Walk.

Submitted by,
Sandra Liechty
Member
Japan Committee



Japanese Garden in all its Glory!



The garden is located on Eureka between West and Elizabeth on the bank of the Ottawa River.



Notes from Japan

*A letter from our Harima-cho
English Teacher Kyle Moore*

Greetings LSCA members,

Nubia and I wish you all a belated Happy Easter. We hope the late winter weather clears up soon for you. We can safely say that spring has come to Harima-cho. Already the plum, magnolia and cherry trees are blooming. The parks are filled to the brim with people engaging in "hanami". Maybe it sounds a bit technical but like that, but it means nothing more than having a pic-nic under the cherry blossoms with friends and family. Spring has to be my favorite time of the year in Japan. If you ever have the chance, the cherry trees are at their peak the first week in April around Harima-cho.

Nubia and I participated in HIFA's St. Patrick's Day event for kids last month. Amy, the English teacher from Ireland, was a big help. She taught everyone a little about Irish dancing, it's very fast! We also learned about the symbols and history of Ireland. It was a welcome learning experience for everyone involved. Also, we were interviewed by the Ban-Ban TV after the event. Ban Ban is the local station. The cameraman told us the footage would be on three times a day starting in April. I'm still waiting for someone to recognize me on the street.

The Harima Junior High School graduation ceremony was once again successful. I won't miss Japanese ceremonies. They are very predictable and the initial mystique quickly dissipates after the first few. There are just so many in the course of the year at every level of schooling, even university. On April 9th we will have the entrance ceremony, which is much more interesting; not as many speeches! I enjoy seeing the young first year students come into our school. It's a big change coming from elementary school to junior high, almost like a rite of passage. They will be allowed to walk to school on their own. They no longer have to use the elementary satchel or cap, and of course they wear a less childish looking uniform.

To finish on a more serious note, as of the 31st of March, Nubia and I have completed three years as the representatives of Lima Sister Cities Association in Harima-cho. We feel truly blessed to be part of such a special relationship between Harima-cho and Lima. We've learned so much over these past three years about Japan and ourselves. I know we'll hold our memories of our life in Japan close to our hearts for the rest of our lives.

Best wishes,
Kyle and Nubia