

October 2010

Number Eighteen



# Mendocino Sister Cities Association, Inc.



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## Miasa-Omachi Visitors with Mendocino Hosts

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### Upcoming Events:

- March 26, 2011 Spring Fling Dance at Crown Hall in Mendocino!
- July 2011 Student and Artist trip to Japan

### Miasa-Omachi to Mendocino May 6-May 20, 2010

“Konotabi no houmon wa imamadenonakade ichiban yokatta desu!”

“It was the best visit ever!”

This visit was truly one of the most successful exchanges we have had since these annual visits started in 1992.

From the moment the Art Exchange artists landed at SFO on May 6 to the departure of the Miasa-Omachi student group on May 20, it was a whirlwind of activity incorporating art events, dinners, parties, sightseeing, wine tasting excursions, Homestay hosting, a K-8 School visit and signing of the Sister School Agreement during the culminating “See You Again” dinner at Crown Hall. Truly, a nonstop two weeks for everyone involved with both groups.

Highlights included the May 6, Thursday night

informal reception for the nine visiting artists and a “first look” at their art before the Second Saturday Gala Artists Reception on May 8.

During the Second Saturday Reception, visiting Tole painting artist Hiromi Kitahara kicked things off by performing two traditional Japanese Kimono dances for the standing-room-only crowd.

The Elk community threw a “make your own” Pizza party for the artists the night before the Gala Reception. And Tom Kravis of the Mendocino Hotel opened his doors on Sunday for an evening of eating, drinking and socializing between locals and the Miasa-Omachi artists.

After two active gallery hopping and bar dancing nights in San Francisco, the artists met the student group on their arrival on May 14 before boarding their flight back home. And away we went again!

Arriving in Mendocino that evening we welcomed our new students and chaperones to Mendocino with a tasty potluck “Welcome Dinner” where everyone met their respective Homestay hosts and guests for the following five nights.

With yet again another bang up presentation on Saturday morning by the Mendocino Volunteer Fire Department, the Miasa School students then walked down to Friendship Park to enjoy an international game of baseball and crafts making in the Rec. Center. We all then journeyed to Tim & Khamoor Poehlmann’s wonderful homestead for a late afternoon of games, socializing and dinner before returning to the Homestays.



*Having a Great Time at the See -You -Again Dinner*

Sunday was the much anticipated "Free Day" when the homestay hosts were able to show their guests around Mendocino and partake of the many splendors of the area.



See -You -Again Dinner

The Art Center again stepped in to welcome the student group on Monday after we visited the Peace Plaque on the Headlands.

Tuesday, May 18 was the big day. Starting with a K-8 School assembly which included speeches, gift exchanges and a program presented by the Miasa Middle School students that showcased Japanese achievements, a Sumo wrestling demonstration between a Miasa student and several K-8 students and topped off with a rousing Taiko drum performance by all the Miasa students who then asked some of the K-8 School students to come up and participate. The Miasa group attended classes, played games and had lunch with the Mendocino students, and then walked to the village for an afternoon of shopping.

At 5pm the doors opened for the "See You

Again" dinner and Crown Hall was soon brimming with guests eager to witness the signing of the Mendocino K-8/ Miasa Middle School Agreement. Special guest, Japanese Vice-Consul Takemichi Nagaoka delivered a personal message from the Consular General Nagamine congratulating both associations on almost 20 years of

exchanges.

Mr. Nagaoka also eloquently shared with us how he became interested in a diplomatic career after he spent time in the US as a Sister Cities Exchange student.

But the guests came to see Taiko performances! Since Miasa had hand made and gifted the MSCA nine Taiko drums in 2009 it was only a matter of time before Mendocino formed its own Taiko group. After a spirited performance by the 14 member Mendocino Taiko group and an ovation by the appreciative audience the local group bowed and let the Miasa-Omachi student Taiko group perform several Taiko numbers which had everyone applauding wildly. The most heartwarming of which was the final number where locals young and old, along with Vice-Consul Nagaoka joined in to play the well known (in

Japan anyway) "Hounen Daiko." The smiles were from ear to ear all around the room!

Square dancing with step calling by Jary Stavely and the musical accompaniment of Judy Stavely and Frannie Leopold the entire ensemble of Miasa-Omachi guests, Mendocino dinner guests and Vice-Consul Nagaoka danced three dances to much laughter and enjoyment by everyone!

Early the next morning, the Miasa-Omachi group met at the K-8 school and said their "See you again's to

artists and 41 guests from Miasa-Omachi over a period of 11 nights. Also, a tremendous amount of thanks goes to the Mendocino K-8 School Administration, the Mendocino Art Center Staff, the Mendocino Volunteer Fire Department and the Edgewater Gallery in Ft. Bragg for extending the Sister Cities Art Show through the end of June.

Minnasan, domo arigato gozaimashita!  
Mike L. Evans  
MSCA President



At the Beach with the Crowningshield Family

their new-found friends. After a bus ride to The City and a little sightseeing they were early to bed and off on the plane the next morning for home. A quick trip, but, "Konotabi no houmon wa imamadenonakade ichiban yokatta desu!"

The MSCA would like to thank all the Homestay hosts who opened their homes to nine



Skyler Thomas with some New Friends



*A Ride on the Fire Truck*



*Taiko Performance at the Mendocino K-8 School*

**What it's like to have Japanese kids stay at your house!**

If you really like the Japanese culture then you should have a Japanese homestay. This year I had two kids stay at my house. Their names were Kai Washizawa and Syohei Miyata. What it was like for me was that I was a little shy at first but I got used to it and loved it! What we did was we went to the golf course in Fort Bragg and we went to all of the dinners and all of the things that they had to do with their group. So if you get a homestay you should know that it is a lot of fun.

Written by Madelyn Crowningshield



*Drae with His Guests*

I had two boys stay at my house, Otsuka & Hirose. They brought Japanese candies for me. They were fun to eat. We had fun at Taka's Japanese food restaurant. We all played soccer & football at the beach on our family day. We had BBQ. It was fun walking around town with all the kids. The school day was very fun. We had fun playing games together at night.

Draellan Suarez



*Testing the Equipment at the Mendocino Fire House*

Ayumu & Shunya were my home stay sons. They were all smiles during their visit with us. They brought me beautiful placemats, that I just love. We had a great time at the Fire House. They got to spray the fire hose & ride in the Fire Trucks. I loved watching all the kids play Taiko. I was so inspired by their music, that I now am learning how to play. We took a big group of kids to play on the beach & fish in the surf. I had a really fun time with all of the visiting kids.

LaRene Harned-Suarez

*Group at the Beach on the "Free Day"*



*At the Mendocino Recreation Center*

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** for the dance in March

Food, silent auction items, and help on that evening would be appreciated.

Contact Mike or Sharon for details. (Contact info pg. 5)



*Miasa Students Taiko Performance at the See-You-Again Dinner*

### *An Artist's Impression of Mendocino and Homestay Experiences*

I felt envious when I first saw the range of the cliffs that face the Pacific Ocean. America has huge lands, large houses.

Many places are spacious and calm. It's quite different from our small island which has one hundred and thirty million people living in such a tiny space. Japan is so tiny that often it's hard to find a view without man-made products. Some people argue that local areas are in danger of

nation and homogeneous nation. "Why is art so popular in Mendocino?" is my first question.



*Visiting Students doing Crafts at the Mendocino Recreation Center*

under-population. But now I see there are no under-populated areas in Japan.

I also became aware of the Japanese' lack of durability, American's vitality, individualism, self-responsibility, personal dignity. I thought about the pros and cons of a mixed race

I could smell the good atmosphere of individualism and a culture that really loves Art. I was surprised to see couples hug each other in front of me. It's a nice experience to see water towers. I was impressed to see streets with less garbage. I wonder how Mendocino people will live in the future when there are no more cars.

It's also a wonder for me that there are no guardrails on the side of the road and there is no salty scent from the sea. Food tastes good and the red wine is excellent!

Thank you for all your kindness. I hope this art exchange last forever, with the emphasis on quality rather than money.

Masami Yoshikawa,  
Visiting Artist



### *Homestay with the Kenton-Bradens*

We were so fortunate to have opened our hearts and our home to two wonderful exchange students from Japan. Junnosuke and Akihiro taught my three children more than words can describe. Our children learned to communicate without speaking the same language. From the first day when they gave us our gifts, we sat around the table and they taught us the fine art of Origami. We played ping pong, soccer, bowling and baseball together. We received a letter from the boys, one included illustrations of all the activities we were able to do while they were here for their short visit. We believe we have made lifelong friends and look forward to the day when we will meet again.

### *Watching Videos from Earlier in the Visit at the SYA Dinner*



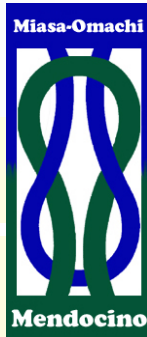
*At the Peace Plaque in the Rain*

In Japan, most galleries are located in big cities. But Mendocino County has many galleries even in less-populated towns. In Mendocino art is popular, people are talkative and liberal. Sea, woods, flowers, houses, every place I went around I thought would be perfect for a picture.

# Mendocino Sister Cities Association, Inc.

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*Homestay Group with Friends at the See-You-Again Dinner*

**We're on the Web**  
[www.mendosca.org](http://www.mendosca.org)



*Walking to Mendocino for Sightseeing and Shopping*



*Having Fun at the Sushi Restaurant*



*Artist Group at MacKerricher Beach*

For more pictures and detailed accounts of both group visits, go to <http://www.mendosca.org/html/2010.html> on the internet!



**SEE YOU AGAIN!!!**

### Don't Forget!!

- Print out and mail in your membership renewal from. Please renew and help support or program!
- The student group for the trip to Miasa-Omachi in July has begun to meet. We are planning to have an artist and student exchange in July of 2011.