Japan-America Society of San Antonio
サンアントニオ日米協会

President Rosemary Kowalski

The origin of the Japan-America Society of San Antonio (JASSA) can be traced to the many years of business and diplomatic service by Mr Seichi and Mrs Naoko Shirane. In 1985, Mayor Henry Cisneros led a San Antonio and Austin delegation to Japan. The Shiranes were instrumental in helping San Antonio find a sister city in Kumamoto City, and an agreement was signed in December 1987. Since then, JASSA has become a vibrant social, economic, cultural, organization with high level recognition. The groundwork accomplished by the Shiranes and Henry Cisneros was rewarded with the opening of the $1.28 Billion Toyota Texas Motor Manufacturing Plant in South San Antonio in November 2006. The economic impact of Toyota and its 21 on-site suppliers cannot be over-emphasized.

JASSA is led by an all-volunteer board of officers including President, Vice Presidents for Membership, Programs, Education, Business and Economic Development, and Cultural Activities, Secretary, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian. Officers are elected annually.

JASSA hosts the following annual events:
A ***Matsuri Festival*** in October featuring an array of music, dance, foods, arts and crafts, martial arts, tea ceremony, flower arrangement, and miniature bonsai trees.

Asian New Year Festival at the Institute of Texas Culture, with Japanese foods, cultural items and activities, and the four-day ***Texas Folk Life Festival***, held in the summer.

Japanese Speech Contest at three of the four year intervals when it is San Antonio's turn to host the event. In other years, it encourages participation in the contest and helps to find qualified native speakers to serve as judges.

The San Antonio Botanical Gardens holds an annual Viva Botanica, and JASSA co-sponsors ***Kumamoto En Day*** by providing Japanese foods, calligraphy, origami, miniature sand garden construction, and tours of the Japanese garden which was built and restored in 2006 with the assistance of the Sister City.

Educational events: Speech by Mr Masaaki Imai, author of "Kaizen," co-sponsored by the City of San Antonio International Department, Japanese Film showings co-sponsored by the University of Texas at San Antonio, and "An Evening of Japanese Culture" at the Radius.

Ongoing events include: sponsoring of Japanese Language classes for adults and children and promotion of the San Antonio Museum of Art Lenora and Walter F. Brown Asian Art Wing, which hosts the largest collection of Asian Arts in the Southern half of the United States. In 2005,

In October 2006, JASSA conducted a corporate membership drive, culminating with a social at the San Antonio Museum of Art, with the Texas First Lady, Ms Anita Perry, and Consul General Yoshihiko Kamo attending.

In 2006 JASSA became a member of National Association of Japan America Societies. We are looking forward to communicating and working with other JASs in the country.

JASSA is actively supporting the Alamo Asian-American Chamber of Commerce, with three JASSA members serving as Board or Advisory Board Members.

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