



Lawrence
Sister Cities

April 10, 2014

New Friends of Hiratsuka Officers Recommended

At its March 26 meeting, the Friends of Hiratsuka recommended new officers to the Sister Cities Advisory Board. (full meeting notes are included later in this newsletter)

Ms. Lori Hutfles will become the new chair. Lori has a background in journalism, fundraising, and non-profit management. She is a former member of the Sister Cities Advisory Board. She and her husband own a government relations firm in Topeka. Lori can be contacted at kayaklori@att.net

Mr. Kevin Boatright will become the new Secretary/Historian. Kevin is the Director of Communications for the KU Office of Research. He and his wife Deborah have hosted individuals from Hiratsuka, and their daughter Martha served as a chaparone for the Hiratsuka youth exchange before she spent a two-years teaching English in a Japan school. Kevin can be contacted at kboatright@ku.edu

A remaining officer position of vice-chair remains open. Interested individuals should contact Lori or Kevin.

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The Spencer Museum of Art hosts family friendly *Japan Festival 2014*

The Spencer Museum of Art is hosting an exciting event this Saturday April 12. You and your family are cordially invited:

10:30 - 11:30 The **Way of Tea installation** inspires this adventure led by art educator Scott Barber. Participants start by exploring the cultural meaning of the beautiful objects

on display, then make their own tea pots to take home. **Ideal for children ages 5-8 and their chaperones.** No advanced registration necessary.

12:00-1:00 pm **Japanese Crafts:** Try calligraphy, origami and hachimaki.

1:00-2:00 pm **Lectures:** Learn more about the tea ceremony and the Japanese appreciation for the four seasons by area scholars.

2:00-3:00 pm **Gallery Tours:** Discover some of the Museum's tea ceremony treasures and related works of art with talks by SMA professionals. Each tour lasts 20 minutes and repeats at 2:30 pm.

3:00-4:00 pm **Performance:** Feel the power of traditional Japanese drumming at this interactive performance by Three Trails Taiko.

The days events are sponsored by the Center for East Asian Studies at the University of Kansas, Japan Foundation, Center for Global Partnership, Spencer Museum of Art (SMA).

For information: Nancy Hope at CEAS (nfhope@ku.edu) or visit the [SMA website here](#).

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Meeting Notes: Friends of Hiratsuka Meeting

March 26, 2014 - 6:00 pm Firestation #5 –Jayhawk Meeting Room

Attendees: James Hilliard , Brian Heili, Angela Heili, Kathleen Hodge, Melissa Abakah, Eugenia Bryan, Leo Shaw, Patrick Kelly, Patsy Moody, Bob Moody, Michael Kennedy, Erika Norikami, Jon Josserand, Kevin Boatright, Lori Huffles, Carrie Lindsey

Discussion:

James Hilliard reported that 20 student delegates were selected and have been preparing for the trip to Hiratsuka this summer. Erika Norikami (Japanese Outreach Coordinator) is assisting to prepare students for the trip. Trip travel dates are leave July 3 and return on July 13. Chaperones for this trip are James and Cathy Hilliard. This summer only two chaperones will be leading the students in an effort to minimize trip costs and to rebuild trip account funds. Trip cost this summer was set at \$2,300. The group will be flying United Airlines with a ticket price of \$1,647 per delegate. Hosting and trip prep expenses has been budgeted for \$6,050 leaving the remaining funds to be returned to the trip account.

Chaperones for the summer of 2015 have been selected. Melissa Abakah, Angela and Brian Heili will be leading the students next summer. Both families have been involved with the program for the past year and have been assisting with the students preparing for the 2014 trip. Previously both families were heavily involved with hosting and entertaining our Japanese guests during the summer of 2013.

Trip coordinator(s) to replace Cathy Hilliard beginning the August 2014 was a topic of discussion. It was suggested that finding two sets of coordinators would be ideal. One to handle outbound student delegations and one to handle inbound student delegations. It was explained that coordinating both inbound and outbound requiring a four week commitment during the summer. Cathy and James Hilliard will offer their support and training for new coordinators. Patrick and Amy Kelly, Carrie Lindsey, Ginnie Ellis and Katrina Rothrock have all expressed interest. James Hilliard will coordinate a meeting for more information for the interested parties. Also interested in future chaperone opportunities were Patrick and Amy Kelly, Carrie Lindsey and Ginnie Ellis.

Nominations were requested for Friends of Hiratsuka officers. James Hilliard has been serving as Chair. Patsy Moody has been serving as Historian. Vice Chair and Secretary has been vacant.

Lori Huffles was nominated and accepted the position as **Chair**.

Kevin Boatright was nominated and accepted the position as **Secretary/Historian**

Current Vacant Position: **Vice-Chair**

There was some discussion about generating more awareness about Sister Cities. A couple of the SCAB members reported that steps are currently in process to remedy this problem. More information will be communicated when plans are confirmed.

Meeting adjourned 7:20 pm

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Lawrence Sister Cities* P. O Box 731 * Lawrence, KS 66044

[Lawrence Sister Cities Advisory Board](#)