



Sebastopol World Friends

“World Peace, One Friend at a Time”

Sister City Exchange Programs
Yamauchi-Takeo, Japan • Chyhyryn, Ukraine

Celebrating our 26th Year

April 2011

Important Spring Dates:

Sat. April 16th

Apple Blossom Parade • Walk with SWF

All are invited to participate with the board of directors, student delegates and officials from Takeo City, Japan! Meet on High School Road prior to parade start time – look for SWF group.

Sat. April 16th

Takeo/Sebastopol Charter Signing • 1:45 pm

Apple Blossom Festival • Parade Awards stage at High Street parking lot. (1:45-2:00 p.m.)



Yamauchi-Takeo Hosting a Success

March 25 – April 3, 2011

Sebastopol host families have completed a successful hosting period with their guests from Yamauchi-Takeo, Japan. *(continued on p. 3)*

Takeo City to sign new charter with Sebastopol at Apple Blossom Festival

In March 2006, Sebastopol’s original sister city Yamauchi, Japan, merged with its larger neighbor, Takeo City. This week, following the Apple Blossom Parade, Japanese officials from Takeo will join our Sebastopol mayor and city council in an historic signing of a new charter.

It is significant to note that some Japanese sister cities have not survived incorporation with their larger neighbors. However, Yamauchi World Friends has remained committed to the goal of continuing their relationship with Sebastopol. Yamauchi-Takeo is located on Kyushu Island, in southern Japan. Their exchange program with Sebastopol dates back to 1985, and has included student and adult exchange groups.

Accompanying Takeo City Mayor Keisuke Hiwatashi will be four members of Takeo City government. All will walk in the parade prior to the document signing. Yamauchi World Friends officials will also attend.

The charter signing will be held at the Apple Blossom Festival, Saturday, April 16th, on the awards stage, from 1:45-2:00 p.m.

Sushi Fundraising

Thanks to all who participated in the Dine-and-Donate on March 15th. Sushi Tozai was very pleased by the turnout, and donated 25% of profits (rather than 20%) to the Yamauchi-Takeo Fund.



Sebastopol students greet Ukrainian exchange students

Chyhyryn, Ukraine, Exchange 2011

January Hosting • June Travel

Eleven Analy High School student ambassadors hosted seven Chyhyryn High School students in January. Chaperone and interpreter, Ludmilla Birko, accompanied the visiting group.

The group's itinerary included excursions to San Francisco, Armstrong Woods, Fort Ross, Jack London State Park, the California Academy of Sciences, Santa Rosa Junior College and a tour of Sebastopol.

The two days spent visiting classes at Analy High School were a trip highlight. American and Ukrainian students exchanged lively dialog in Walt Hays' Geometry class and in Robert Cullinen's American Government class. The visitors exchanged song with Andy Delmonte's Advanced Choir, enjoyed playing badminton in Nancy Williams' PE class, and drawing in Tera Crawford's Art class. They viewed a film in Tomi Smith's Advanced Foods and attended Jo Dempsey's Physical Science class. We owe host parent and Analy teacher Jo Dempsey a debt of gratitude for recruiting the teachers who invited the Chyhyryn students into their classroom, and for hosting lunch on both days in her classroom.

The Sebastopol student ambassadors are now preparing a June visit with their new friends in Chyhyryn. They will attend Ukrainian culture and language classes prior to departure, and will prepare a service project for the Orphanage in Chyhyryn. Two days will be spent sightseeing in capital city Kiev, and the following two weeks with host families in Chyhyryn.

(Chyhyryn Exchange, cont.)

Sebastopol student ambassadors are Brianna Marson, Julia Moreira, Mikaela Dibble-Kahn, Sophia Giuliani, Sasha Ruschmeyer, Savannah McNichol, Alea Andresen, Mariah Archibald, Patience Vogt, Patrick Dempsey and Amanda Brooker. Adult group leaders are SWF Board Members Chris Wagner, Valeria Churma, and Kim Sullivan.

Successful Sweetheart Dinner

Benefits new scholarship fund

The Sweetheart Pasta Dinner Fundraiser on Feb 12th was a big success and fun for all. Organized by the Chyhyryn committee, and carried out by both the Chyhyryn and Yamauchi-Takeo host families, the combined dinner, silent auction, Sees candy and wine sales earned \$2,474 for our new scholarship fund. All expenses were paid by the Sebastopol World Friends organization.

Thanks to the kitchen crew managed by Chris Wagner and Kevin Sullivan, with help from many volunteers. Thanks to Laurie Dibble and Lili Gunter for baking up scrumptious desserts. Alumni host moms Sandy Andresen and Amy Stevens managed the front of house flawlessly. Host students helped in the kitchen and waited on tables.

Sebastopol World Friends • Board of Directors

Valeria Churma, *Chair*
Leaf Roberts, *Vice Chair*
Ali Ghorbani, *Treasurer*
Linda Helton, *Secretary*

Chyhyryn Co-Chairs
Leaf Roberts, Kim Sullivan, Chris Wagner

Yamauchi-Takeo Co-Chairs
Meg Mizutani, Cynthia Albers

Sandy Andresen, Member at Large

Communications
Cynthia Albers, *Newsletter*
Chris Wagner, *Webmaster*

Sebastopol City Council Liaison
Patrick Slayter



Japanese students perform 'Soran' at Welcome Party 3/26

Yamauchi-Takeo Hosting 2011

After months of planning, it went by all too quickly. The 10 day hosting period was a big success, thanks to precision teamwork from parent-run committees, the solid leadership of Meg Mizutani, and various means of support ranging from local businesses to the Japanese American Citizens League, Enmanji Temple, Sonoma West Times & News and the Japanese Consulate in San Francisco. A formal welcome party was followed by five days of touring, a Giant's baseball game, and a poignant Sayonara Party that showcased the emotional bonds that had formed between guests and hosts.

Yamauchi-Takeo co-chairs, Mizutani and Cynthia Albers, worked to include each local student 'host' on the Welcome Party program. All were given a speaking role or artistic role, including musical performance and language translation.

Sebastopol students who hosted this spring will become student ambassadors to Japan in the Spring 2012. They include, Keenan Bartlomé-Pierson, Jessie Brandt, Maddy Chanin-Meiers, Aron Corradi, Sierra Cullen-Riak, Allegra Diamond, Harriett Donovan, Simon French, Erin Garlock, Felix Greer, Malia Grobbel-Rank, Matthew Hidy, Forrest Horobin, Noah Kriegler-Allen, Mimi Largier, Ashanti Letourneau-Bethea, Hailey Windsor, Genean Wrisley.

Many thanks go to these student families and additional hosts; the Griffins, Levenbergs and Henel-Smiths.

Open World Delegates 2010

In June 2010, SWF welcomed delegates from Chyhyryn as part of the nationally sponsored Open World program. The delegates were men and women working in city government and education administration. Their full agenda took them through Washington, D.C. and Sacramento, and included job shadowing with comparable members of Sebastopol City Council and Staff. They also enjoyed a visit to Jack London Park and a Giants baseball game.



Delegates from Chyhyryn, Ukraine, visit Palm Drive



Students from the Yamauchi-Takeo group spoke at the March 26th Welcome Party at Enmanji Temple. They are part of an 18-student delegation that will travel to Japan as student ambassadors in 2012.