

Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board Meeting Action Minutes  
2.9.2022

**Advisory Board Members Present:**

Adrienne Scritsmier  
Seiji Shiratori  
Ashleigh Sumerlin  
Tracy Sailors  
Sruthi Menon  
Aaron Reyna  
Sammy Scarpone  
Dave Schalk  
Lois Reimer- Emeritus (observing)

**Staff Present:**

Erica Behler – Recreation Coordinator

**Members of the Public Present:**

Graham Morris - JASO

AGENDA ITEM	ACTIONS
<b>CALLED TO ORDER</b>	6:02 p.m.
<u>Minutes</u>	A. 1/12/22 minutes approved (all in favor)
<u>Public Comment</u>	A. N/A
Welcome & Presentation- Graham JASO	<p>A. Graham Morris of JASO (The Japan-America Society of Oregon) gave a presentation on the organization and how the board can get involved in the future.</p> <p>JASO is a 501c3 organization whose mission is “to support business and develop community by strengthening the US-Japan relationship” – established in 1907, JASO is the third oldest JAS in the United States. JASO is a membership organization and is volunteer driven, with 2 full-time and 1 part-time staff.</p> <p>Graham mentioned several workshops and events that JASO is putting on in the near future and encouraged the board to consider attending.</p> <p>Opportunities to Explore:  <b>Education Committee:</b> Elementary Classroom Visits “Japan on the Road”- education committee (2-hour curriculum) grant funded (WLWV not enrolled)            High School “Pacific Northwest Japan Bowl” – WLWV High School not enrolled  <b>Culture Committee-</b> Sammy is a member! Shinnenkai, Beer Garden, Movie Nights  <b>Membership Committee-</b> 150 Japanese companies in Oregon that have some sort of bricks and mortar (soy sauce factory in Salem)  <b>Workplace Language and Culture:</b> presentations on workplace culture in japan (*could be a good fit for us to take this presentation)</p> <p>JASO Memberships available for groups/boards/organizations            JASO is not currently working/collaborating with any other Sister City Boards or Orgs. Graham showed the JASO website which features a sister city map component.</p> <p>Dave expressed the need for the board to be more connected with the business community, and asked Graham if JASO had experience with importing Japanese products and introducing them to the greater Portland/Oregon community. Graham said that while JASO is not an economic development center or a chamber of commerce, they do work with many people in the business community. Graham</p>

	<p>explained that JASO helps make connections with the Japan/American community and local Japanese businesses such as a Japanese dentist, a Japanese hair dresser, where do the Japanese kids go to school, etc... helps families settle in.</p> <p>This is a cool company Sammy mentioned that has sponsored JASO events in the past- could be a cool connection for us to make - <a href="https://kirikomade.com/">https://kirikomade.com/</a> (I need to go here ASAP)</p> <p>Adrienne requested more information on how the programs like 'japan on the road' and 'japan bowl' etc... are getting into the schools. Graham explained that it's usually the school that makes the request. The request form is online. <b>This could be something that we approach the schools about after we learn a little bit more about the program.</b></p> <p><b>FYI- we are now bronze members of JASO listed under Wilsonville-Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board</b></p>
Budget Review	<p>A. Seiji - \$1743 had been spent at the time of this meeting. (total budget is \$20,000)</p> <p>Ashleigh mentioned the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sister city relationship will be coming up in October 2022, and is something to think about purchasing for during this fiscal year (fiscal year runs July 1 – June 30)</p> <p>Other notes: funds do not accrue. If we do not use the full amount in our budget, the money will go back into the general fund. Erica has requested the full \$20,000 for the 22/23 budget year.</p>
Survey Review	<p>A. Adrienne shared a draft survey she created in google forms. She created one for Wilsonville residents and one for Kitakata residents.</p> <p>Comments: Erica mentioned Let's Talk Wilsonville! As an opportunity to post surveys for the Wilsonville community. You can find that community interface here: <a href="https://www.letstalkwilsonville.com/">https://www.letstalkwilsonville.com/</a></p> <p>Dave requested that some terminology be added to the survey that says 'short term host' – this will help clarify that we are looking for host families to welcome a student for about 10 days to two weeks. (a lot of folks seem to think this is a much longer commitment)</p> <p>We will likely use Hanae to help translate the survey into kanji.</p> <p>Follow-up: Adrienne will continue to tweak the survey and then will send to Erica. Erica will then review and send the survey out to all board members for further comment.</p>
Review of School Meetings	<p>A. All board members expressed a lot of positive feedback about the school meetings. Erica has a follow up meeting with Tomita san and Hanae to review the meetings and talk next steps.</p> <p>Takeaway: Involve more school-aged children if possible, and involve community center seniors!</p>

	<p>Pen-Pal Program struggling to gain participation  Valentine’s Day Cards – order valentines for board members to fill out  Order gift basket for City Hall</p> <p><b>Update: Package has been sent!</b></p>
Cherry Blossom Week	<p>A. Tracy gave an update on the Japanese Tea Ceremony on April 7. Tracy said she has been working with an individual named Barbara Walker who has done past demonstrations at the Japanese Garden in Portland. Tracy and Erica have since met with Barbara and she will be hosting demonstrations from 3:30pm – 6:30pm on Thursday, April 7 in Town Center Park. Weather permitting; demonstrations will take place on the stage in the park. If it raining, demonstrations will be moved inside the Parks and Rec Admin Office in Town Center Park.</p> <p>B. Erica gave an overview of the schedule she had created with the various events and descriptions. She also gave a brief update on the facebook event page, which can be found here:  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/3108879699431265/?active_tab=discussion">https://www.facebook.com/events/3108879699431265/?active_tab=discussion</a></p> <p>C. Erica briefly mentioned the possibility of getting a hot air balloon – risk management has since said no to this idea</p> <p>D. See event flyers below meeting notes</p> <p>E. Purchase mochi for handout during events –(has since been purchased- thank you Sammy)</p> <p>F. Kitakata will be sending some gift items to us for the photo contest giveaway</p>
Revisit Strategic Plan	<p>A. The board did not get to strategic plan review as Cherry Blossom week took priority</p>
Board Comments	<p>A. The board will temporarily move their monthly meetings to Tuesday evenings until the second week of May to accommodate a class that Erica is taking on Wednesday nights (Thanks team!)</p>
<b>ADJOURN</b>	7:55 p.m.



THE KITAKATA SISTER CITY ADVISORY BOARD PRESENTS:

# PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

VIRTUAL CONTEST APRIL 4 - APRIL 10

TO KICK OFF CHERRY BLOSSOM WEEK, WE WANT TO SEE YOUR BEST CHERRY BLOSSOM PHOTOS! ENTER THE PHOTO CONTEST BY TAGGING YOUR PHOTOS ON SOCIAL MEDIA WITH THE HASHTAG #WILSONVILLESAKURAWEEK OR BY SENDING THEM TO RECREATION COORDINATOR, ERICA BEHLER AT BEHLER[AT]CI.WILSONVILLE.OR.US BY SUNDAY, APRIL 10 - ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ENTERED TO WIN GIFTS FROM KITAKATA CITY! THREE WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON MONDAY, APRIL 11 AND NOTIFIED VIA EMAIL OR SOCIAL MEDIA

**#WILSONVILLESAKURAWEEK**



**NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED**



THE KITAKATA SISTER CITY ADVISORY BOARD PRESENTS:

# SOUND BATH MEDITATION

TUESDAY APRIL 5 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM | TOWN CENTER PARK

JOIN INSTRUCTOR, MELANIE MEHERIN FOR THIS SPECIAL CHERRY BLOSSOM WEEK EVENT! THE VIBRATIONAL SOUNDS EXPERIENCED DURING A SOUND BATH HELP PEOPLE DROP INTO A MEDITATIVE STATE OF DEEP REST AND RELAXATION, IMPROVING OVERALL PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, AND SPIRITUAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING. GIVE YOURSELF PERMISSION TO PAUSE FROM THE CHAOS AROUND YOU FOR THIS POWERFUL AND TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE. BRING YOUR OWN YOGA MAT, BLANKET, AND PILLOW. NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. PRE-REGISTRATION IS ENCOURAGED, BUT WALK-UPS WILL BE WELCOME. REGISTER AT [WILSONVILLEPARKSANDREC.COM](http://WILSONVILLEPARKSANDREC.COM)  
COURSE #: 10054



LINK TO REGISTER: [https://apm.activecommunities.com/cityofwilsonville/Activity\\_Search/crystal-bowl-soundbath/10299](https://apm.activecommunities.com/cityofwilsonville/Activity_Search/crystal-bowl-soundbath/10299)

THE KITAKATA SISTER CITY ADVISORY BOARD PRESENTS:

# SAKURA CRAFT & STORY WALK

WED APRIL 6 | 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM | TOWN CENTER PARK

JOIN MEMBERS OF THE KITAKATA SISTER CITY ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TISSUE PAPER SAKURA CRAFT AND CHERRY BLOSSOM THEMED STORY WALK IN TOWN CENTER PARK. THE STORY WALK WILL FEATURE THE KIDS BOOK 'SAKURA'S CHERRY BLOSSOMS' BY ROBERT PAUL WESTON. ALL CRAFT MATERIALS WILL BE PROVIDED.



**NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED**



THE KITAKATA SISTER CITY ADVISORY BOARD PRESENTS:

LIVE 30 MINUTE DEMONSTRATIONS | APRIL 7

3:30 PM - 6:30 PM | TOWN CENTER PARK STAGE

The Japanese tea ceremony is a tradition steeped in history. The main purpose of the tea ceremony is for the guests to enjoy the hospitality of the host in an atmosphere distinct from the fast pace of everyday life.



NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED



THE KITAKATA SISTER CITY ADVISORY BOARD PRESENTS:

# OIL PAINTING - CHERRY BLOSSOMS

FRIDAY, APRIL 8 | 5:30 PM | TOWN CENTER PARK

JOIN INSTRUCTOR JUDY STUBB FOR THIS SPECIAL (FREE!) OIL PAINTING CLASS FOR CHERRY BLOSSOM WEEK! WHAT WILL THE CLASS BE PAINTING? YOU GUESSED IT, CHERRY BLOSSOMS! THIS STEP-BY-STEP OIL PAINTING CLASS IS DONE IN THE BOB ROSS STYLE OF WET-ON-WET PAINT AND WILL TAKE BEGINNER TO SEASONED PAINTERS FROM A BLANK CANVAS TO A FINISHED PAINTING IN ONE CLASS. ALL SUPPLIES WILL BE PROVIDED. WHILE THE CLASS IS FREE, SPOTS ARE LIMITED AND PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. COURSE #10332 (REGISTER ONLINE AT [WILSONVILLEPARKSANDREC.COM](http://WILSONVILLEPARKSANDREC.COM))



LINK TO REGISTER:

[https://apm.activecommunities.com/cityofwilsonville/Activity\\_Search/oil-painting-cherry-blossoms/10618](https://apm.activecommunities.com/cityofwilsonville/Activity_Search/oil-painting-cherry-blossoms/10618)





THE KITAKATA SISTER CITY ADVISORY BOARD PRESENTS:

# FILM SCREENING: THE BIRTH OF SAKE

SATURDAY APRIL 9 | 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM | COMMUNITY CENTER

COME ENJOY A VIEWING OF THE DOCUMENTARY 'THE BIRTH OF SAKE' AT THE WILSONVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER ON SATURDAY, APRIL 9 AT 7PM- FREE MOCHI SNACK INCLUDED! "IN A WORLD WHERE MOST MASS PRODUCED GOODS ARE HEAVILY AUTOMATED, A SMALL GROUP OF MANUAL LABORERS MUST BRAVE UNUSUAL WORKING CONDITIONS TO PRESERVE A 2000-YEAR-OLD TRADITION THAT WE HAVE COME TO KNOW AS SAKÉ. THE BIRTH OF SAKÉ IS A CINEMATIC DOCUMENTARY THAT REVEALS THE STORY OF PASSIONATE SAKÉ-MAKERS AND WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE WORLD-CLASS SAKÉ AT YOSHIDA BREWERY, A 144-YEAR-OLD FAMILY-OWNED SMALL BREWERY IN NORTHERN JAPAN." WHILE THIS EVENT IS FREE, PRE REGISTRATION IS ENCOURAGED. REGISTER AT WILSONVILLEPARKSANDREC.COM COURSE #: 10288



LINK TO REGISTER: [https://apm.activecommunities.com/cityofwilsonville/Activity\\_Search/the-birth-of-sake-documentary-screening/10533](https://apm.activecommunities.com/cityofwilsonville/Activity_Search/the-birth-of-sake-documentary-screening/10533)



**THE KITAKATA SISTER CITY ADVISORY BOARD PRESENTS:**

# **PICNIC IN THE PARK**

**WED APRIL 6 | 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM | TOWN CENTER PARK**

**PACK UP A PICNIC LUNCH AND BRING IT TO THE PARK ON SUNDAY, APRIL 10 AND ENJOY 'HANAMI', THE ART OF CHERRY BLOSSOM VIEWING. REMEMBER, CHERRY BLOSSOMS LEAVE US AS QUICKLY AS THEY CAME - ENJOY THIS SPECIAL TIME OF YEAR WHILE YOU CAN! DO THE STORY WALK 'SAKURA'S CHERRY BLOSSOMS' AND SNAP A PHOTO FOR THE PHOTO CONTEST  
#WILSONVILLESAKURAWEEK**



**NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED**



# CHERRY BLOSSOM "SAKURA" WEEK

April 4 - 10 | Town Center Park



WILSONVILLE  
OREGON

MON  
4

Cherry Blossom Photo Contest

#WilsonvilleSakuraWeek

TUE  
5

Sound Meditation - 6 pm

WED  
6

Sakura Craft & Storywalk - 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

THU  
7

Tea Ceremony Demonstration - ongoing 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm

FRI  
8

Oil Painting - Cherry Blossoms 5:30 pm

SAT  
9

Film Screening - "The Birth of Sake"

Community Center 7pm

SUN  
10

Picnic in the Park



# EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

## Cherry Blossom Photo Contest | April 4 - 10

Welcome to Cherry Blossom Week! To kick off the week, we want to see your best cherry blossom photos! Enter the photo contest by tagging your photos on social media with the hashtag #WilsonvilleSakuraWeek or by sending them to Recreation Coordinator, Erica Behler at behler@ci.wilsonville.or.us by Sunday, April 10 - all participants will be entered to win gifts from Kitakata City! Three winners will be announced on Monday, April 11 and notified via email or social media

## Sound Meditation | Tues. April 5

The vibrational sounds experienced during a sound bath help people drop into a meditative state of deep rest and relaxation, improving overall physical, emotional, and spiritual health and well-being. Join Melanie Meherin under the cherry blossoms on Tuesday, April 5 and give yourself permission to pause from the chaos around you for this powerful and transformative experience. Bring your own yoga mat, blanket, and pillow. No prior experience necessary. Registration not required.

## Sakura Craft & Story Walk | Wed. April 6

Join members of the Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board for a tissue paper sakura craft and cherry blossom themed story walk in Town Center Park. All craft materials will be provided.

## Tea Ceremony Demonstration | Thurs. April 7

The Japanese tea ceremony (chadō) is a Japanese tradition steeped in history. It is a ceremonial way of preparing and drinking green tea. Beyond just serving and receiving tea, one of the main purposes of the tea ceremony is for the guests to enjoy the hospitality of the host in an atmosphere distinct from the fast pace of everyday life. Come enjoy a 30 minute tea ceremony demonstration with Barbara Walker from the Portland Japanese Garden, to learn more about this special cultural tradition.

## Oil Painting | Fri. April 8

Join Instructor Judy for this step-by-step oil painting class done in the Bob Ross style of wet-on-wet paint. In this class participants will learn to paint, you guessed it- cherry blossoms! This class takes beginner to seasoned painters from a blank canvas to a finished painting in one class. This class is limited to 20 participants. Pre-registration is required.

## Film Screening | Sat. April 9

Come enjoy a viewing of the documentary 'The Birth of Sake' at the Wilsonville Community Center on Saturday, April 9 at 7pm- free mochi snack included! "In a world where most mass produced goods are heavily automated, a small group of manual laborers must brave unusual working conditions to preserve a 2000-year-old tradition that we have come to know as saké. The Birth of Saké is a cinematic documentary that reveals the story of passionate saké-makers and what it takes to make world-class saké at Yoshida Brewery, a 144-year-old family-owned small brewery in northern Japan."

## Picnic in the Park | Sun. April 10

Pack up a picnic lunch and bring it to the park on Sunday, April 10 and enjoy 'hanami', the art of cherry blossom viewing. Remember, Cherry Blossoms leave us as quickly as they came - enjoy this special time of year while you can!