



Promote peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation – one individual, one community at a time.

## Education a top priority of Sister City relationship

“Monday, April 23, 2007 is a date that will live in the memory of all of us that were present at the sister school signings,” stated Wendy Fischer, Hot Springs Middle School drama teacher. Hot Springs Middle School and Hanamaki Junior High along with Jessieville Middle School and Ohasama Junior High entered into sister school agreements during two separate ceremonies.

*“Our schools pledge to uphold the purpose of this relationship and to contribute toward the education of young minds that will participate in the betterment of the global society through international and intercultural exchange.”*

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agreements Principal Doug Upshaw of HSMS and Principal Michkazu Yoshida of HJH signed during the first ceremony at HSMS auditorium. Later that day, Principal Ikuo Segawa of OJH and Principal Janis Bremer of JMS signed their agreement during the

second ceremony held at Jessieville’s new sports complex. At both ceremonies, Mayor Mike Bush noted, “Educational exchange has always been the cornerstone of our Sister City Program.”

Mayor Bush applauded the schools for taking this step towards new global friendships and offered his full support. The students also have the support of their superintendents. They heard from Hot Springs Superintendent Joyce Craft and Jessieville Superintendent George Foshee as they spoke on the importance of education, the excitement of these new school relationships and the opportunities they will bring to students.

One immediate opportunity was cultural in nature. The Hanamaki delegation was treated to student performances during the ceremonies.

*Hot Springs Middle School Principal Upshaw, Hanamaki Junior High Principal Yoshida, Mayor Bush, Hot Springs School District Superintendent Craft and former Hanamaki Mayor Watanabe gather for Sister City school signing ceremony.*



Former Hanamaki Mayor Tsutomu Watanabe, Mayor Mike Bush, and Jessieville School District Superintendent George Foshee watch as Principals Ikuo Segawa and Janis Bremer sign the Sister City school agreement.

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**Upcoming events**

**June 10 - 17, 2007**  
Teacher exchange to Hanamaki

**August 2, 2007**  
Foundation Meeting, 5:30 p.m.  
Garland County Library

**September 1 - 9, 2007**  
Hot Springs citizen delegation visits Hanamaki

(Continued on page 2)

*(Education, from page 1)*

Hot Springs Middle School's Eric Mitchell, Deja Evans, Robert Jackson and Colin Holder played the drums, and Marcus Wiles performed on piano. Jessieville second grade students sang as they had done before to the delight of past cultural delegations. The middle school chorus sang an American medley and the band played. In exchange, our sister city delegation had a very special treat for the students. The ShiShi Odori (Deer Dancers) performed two dances as the students watched in awe. All in attendance were grateful to have shared this performance.

One of the top goals of the sister city relationship between Hot Springs and Hanamaki is educational understanding and advancement. We want to bring multiculturalism into the classrooms through direct interaction with students, teachers and administrators from our sister city. Whether in person or via email, students learn to appreciate cultural differences, recognize similarities, and develop a global perspective. This was a day we took a step forward for the betterment of global education and understanding. ♦



*Energy-filled performance*



*Jessieville's second graders sing from their hearts.*



*HSMS students perform for their school signing.*



## Sister City Foundation News

*Donna Casparian, HSNPSCF President*

Instructors Wendy Fischer of Hot Springs Middle School, Ron Luckow of ASMSA, and Larry Wilson of Hot Springs High School were awarded grants from the Hot Springs National Park Sister City Foundation to study the culture and educational system in Hanamaki, Japan this June.

These grants, which cover the full cost of transportation to Hanamaki, have been awarded by the Foundation to area public school teachers since 1998. The City of Hanamaki reciprocates by providing "home stays" for the instructors and assumes responsibility for their tours in Hanamaki. When these teachers return to their classrooms in the fall, they are expected to incorporate their new knowledge and experiences into their classroom curriculum.

The Sister City Foundation (a private, non-profit entity) is able to provide these scholarships through grants and Foundation memberships. The Foundation is most thankful to its leading sponsors: Levi Hospital; Dorothy Morris Foundation; Hot Springs Area Community Foundation; and Elisabeth Wagner Foundation. Sustaining Members Hot Springs Bank and Trust and the Jane Howard Foundation also provide financial support.

By sending teachers each year, the Foundation is able to bring firsthand experience of the culture of Japan into the classroom to hundreds of Garland County students. Each January, we have the chance to host Hanamaki students for home stays here in Hot Springs. Many families now look forward to sharing their homes with these students for several days.

The Foundation welcomes any further

donations to the teacher scholarship fund. Tax deductible contributions can be sent to: HSNP Sister City Foundation Box 700 Hot Springs, AR 71902 or email [donna@sistercityfoundation.com](mailto:donna@sistercityfoundation.com).



*Mayor Oishi presented the bronze statue of a Deer Dancer to the HSNPS in honor of their 175th anniversary.*



*Mayor and Mrs. Oishi meet Governor Beebe at the Arkansas State Capitol.*

## A Visit to Remember

In honor of the 175th anniversary celebration of the Hot Springs Reservation — National Park, Mayor and Mrs. Oishi led a 21-member delegation visit to Hot Springs. The five-day itinerary was filled with official duties, school signings and special events.

The delegation began by touring the Clinton Presidential Library and the Arkansas State Capitol, where they met Governor Mike Beebe and Sister Cities International President Sherman Banks. While at the Capitol, the Deer Dancers performed to an enthusiastic crowd. The dancers would perform for energetic crowds nine more times during the course of their stay.

Thursday evening, the delegation headed to Garvan Woodland Gardens for a welcome reception. The garden is a favorite destination for sister city delegations. After warm welcomes by Mayor Bush and city directors, the official duties began. Mayor Oishi and the delegation attended the 175<sup>th</sup> ribbon cutting, toured educational exhibits, attended the 175<sup>th</sup> banquet and planted a maple tree in the National Park. Mayor Oishi was very thoughtful, delivering several impressive speeches in English. He spoke of the Japanese park service, which turns fifty years old this year, and the importance of conservation, the environment and the friendship between our two cities.

The friendship was evident everywhere the delegation went. They were able to take boat rides on Lake Hamilton, thanks to the kindness of Fred Leonard and Vernon Hulsey. The day ended with an unforgettable HSNP Foundation dinner at the home of David and Ann Hair. The conversation and laughter were greatly enjoyed and appreciated.

The delegation wishes to thank the citizens of Hot Springs for such a memorable visit. Here's to many more years of friendship and exchanges. ♦



*Mayor Bush welcomes the delegation as Mr. Fudai translates.*



*Toshiki and Simon play horseshoes at the Welcome Reception.*



*Ms. Tamayama, Principal Bremer and Mrs. Oishi enjoying time together*



*The delegation at the State Capitol*



*Director Edwards and Mr. Emory visit with Mayor Oishi and Assembly Secretary Ichikawa during the Welcome Reception at Garvan Gardens.*



*HSNP Foundation dinner at the Hair's home*



*Getting ready for a boat ride with Fred Leonard*



*Sister City Journal*

花卷市  
HANAMAKI

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***"Dedicated to fostering global awareness and appreciation through cultural exchanges and shared experiences"***



*H.S. Reservation 175th ribbon cutting*

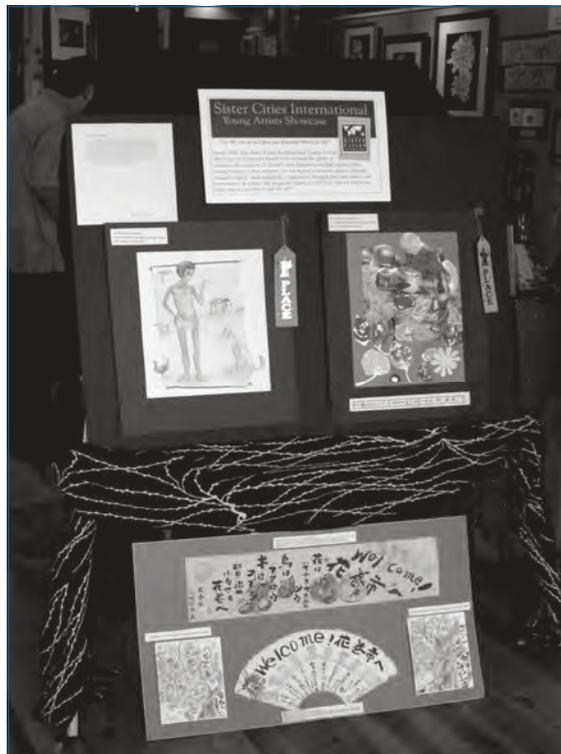
## "Do we live in an open and accessible world for all?"

Since 1988, Sister Cities International Young Artists Showcase has inspired youth from around the globe to consider the mission of Sister Cities International and express their interpretation of that mission. The showcase is open to students 13 to 18 years of age. The 2007 theme was, "Do we live in an open and accessible world for all?"

The Hot Springs National Park Sister City Foundation received several contest entries this year from schools in Garland County and Hanamaki. All of the artwork was display at the Hot Springs Fine Art Center for the April Gallery Walk. Entries were judged, and the first place artwork from both cities was sent to the international competition in Washington, D.C.

The artwork of Kaitlyn Eubanks, Fountain Lake High School and Sora Sugihara, Hanamaki Jr. High won first prize. Congratulations and good luck!

Good luck was our fortune. The Aritou Japanese Etegami group from which three members visited Hot Springs last fall also sent Etegami art for display at the Fine Art Center. This was a very special treat! ♦



*First place winners on display*



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