



# Sister City Journal



Winter 2006

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



## Sister City Foundation is now online

Great news! The Hot Springs National Park Sister City Foundation has launched a new Web site at [www.sistercityfoundation.com](http://www.sistercityfoundation.com). The Web site is up and running, and will expand in the coming year with information about the foundation and City of Hot Springs Sister City Program, which has its own Web presence at [www.cityhs.net/residents-sister-city.html](http://www.cityhs.net/residents-sister-city.html). Membership forms, volunteer opportunities, event calendars, pictures and much more will be provided. It will also have information on our Sister City, Hanamaki, Japan, and will eventually include content contributed by our sister city. ♦

## The students are coming!

Twenty-one students from ten schools in Hanamaki will be taking part in an educational exchange from January 5-10, 2007. The students will work on global issues while attending Jessieville Middle School, Hot Springs Middle School and Lakeside High School. They will stay with host families and learn about American family life. They will eat pizza, barbecue, and school cafeteria lunches, compare music, attend a high school basketball game, tour Hot Springs and make lifelong friends.

Excitement has been building as the arrival time nears. Hanamaki students study English in advance to help them communicate while here. Hot Springs students study about Japan and plan events to make sure the delegates have fun and experience as much of Hot Springs as possible. January 5th is almost here! ♦



### Upcoming events

**January 5–10, 2007**

Hanamaki student delegation visits Hot Springs

**February 2007**

Meeting for those interested in traveling to Hanamaki in September 2007

**April 2007**

Hanamaki Mayor Oishi and a citizen delegation visit Hot Springs for 175th Anniversary of Hot Springs Reservation

Teacher scholarships and Young Artist's Showcase information can be found at [www.sistercityfoundation.com](http://www.sistercityfoundation.com)

## Delegation visits Hanamaki in September

September 2, 2006 began a trip that changed the way nine individuals viewed Japan and our Sister City Program. Director and Mrs. Steve Smith, Director Carroll Weatherford, Sanitation Director Bill Burrough, Dr. and Mrs. Cecil Cupp III, Lauren Cupp, Mrs. Sissi Bennett and Sister City Program Coordinator Madeline Bull traveled to Tokyo and then on to Hanamaki, Japan. This was an amazing experience that gave the delegates the opportunity to learn about the Japanese culture, be treated to the unbelievable hospitality of the Japanese people, take tours of ancient temples, shrines, schools, local government buildings and even take part in Hanamaki's annual festival that is more than 400 years old.



The delegation visits with Principal Sasaki and his staff at Hanamaki Kita Junior High School.

# Officials study Hanamaki sanitation

During their fall visit, Sanitation Director Burrough and City Director Carroll Weatherford were able to tour, observe and learn from the sanitation practices in Tokyo and Hanamaki, Japan. Here are some of Bill Burrough's many observations:

◆ In Tokyo, a city of more than 10 million people, litter was non-existent except for an

occasional cigarette butt on heavily traveled streets and sidewalks.

◆ I watched as employees were out early each morning sweeping the area around their businesses and parking lots. It was also common to see residents cleaning in front of their homes routinely.

◆ I was able to speak to both local officials as well as citizens as to why they thought they were so successful in maintaining a litter-free environment. The answers were all very similar. They are taught at a young age to be respectful of the environment; that everything has a proper place; and that litter in any form is unacceptable and humiliating.

◆ Schools in Japan are not cleaned by a janitorial staff; they are cleaned by the students that attend them.

◆ The city does not collect waste from businesses. This waste is collected by private haulers.

◆ Rather than collecting from each home, each neighborhood or group of homes have collection sites specific to each group.

◆ Hanamaki citizens pay about \$160 annually for sanitation service.

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*Director and Mrs. Smith visit with students at Hanamaki Kita Junior High School.*



*Mrs. Cupp, Miss Cupp and Mrs. Bennett with Miss Hanamaki representatives at the Festival.*



*Mrs. Bennett, Miss Cupp, Mrs. Cupp and Mrs. Smith danced in the parade.*



*Director Weatherford and his new friend.*



*The Cupps enjoyed the parade floats.*



*Director Smith and Principal Kamiseki of Oyamada Elementary School.*



*How many noodles did they eat?*



*Director Weatherford and Bill Burrough wash their hands before entering a temple.*



*Delegates participated in Ms. Risa Kimura's English class.*

# From Hanamaki to Hot Springs

The Aritou Japanese Etegami Group and the Towa Yogu-manzu Theater Group traveled from Hanamaki to Hot Springs to teach and perform. More than 2,000 students and adults took part in these amazing exchanges.

Week one brought Yoshiko, Makiko and Soko opening their hearts to teach Japanese Etegami, the art of postcard drawing. Smiles and laughter from the students filled the rooms as they were instructed "not to draw perfect, it is to draw from your heart." The students could not learn fast enough. Everyone wanted to be a part of the celebration of learning. Students kept asking if the ladies could stay longer. There just wasn't enough time.

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*Jessieville second graders perform for Etegami group.*



*Towa's "Three Masked Drummers" perform at the Pocket Theatre.*



*Miya brings Shi-Shi to life for Langston students.*



*Jessieville students observe Makiko creating Etegami.*



*Takako and Junko have fun in Wendy Fischer's class.*



*Shi-Shi's bite brings good luck.*



*Soko teaches Etegami at HS Middle School.*



*Theater delegation tours thermal waters at Arlington Lawn.*

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◆ The city owns the disposal facility, which is a \$42 million complex. Two incinerators handle the bulk of the waste delivered to the site. The incinerators represent the majority of the cost of the facility. Stack scrubbers installed on the incinerators to insure clean air had a cost of \$20 million. The incinerators have several burn chambers that move waste in stages to complete the burn process, reducing the waste to ash at about 90%.

◆ Through incineration, composting and recycling, very little waste is diverted to a landfill. Recyclables require a labor-intensive process, but provide a source of revenue and have a strong positive impact on the environment.

◆ From restaurants to supermarkets to convenience stores, much less packaging is used, thus reducing the amount of waste that has to be managed.

Whether it is low waste generation to stringent management practices, it is evident that proper waste management is a priority for the Japanese.

I thoroughly enjoyed my experience in Japan, and I'm very appreciative for the opportunity to have represented our city and observe their solid waste management practices. ◆



*Bill Burrough, Hot Springs Sanitation Director, with Etegami delegation in Hanamaki.*



*Sister City Journal*

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*Lakeside students learn Japanese Etegami.*

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Yoshiko, Makiko, and Soko made lasting impressions on everyone they met. Someday they will have to come back and see the positive impact that they had on those to whom they gave a piece of their hearts.

Week two came with the beat of the Taiko drums. Junko, Megumi, Miya, Takako and Yuko came to perform and share Japanese culture during International Education Week. Hearts raced as we listened to Dondora, Honbataki with a bamboo flute and "Three Masked Drummers." Eyes watched in awe of the Onikenbai, Daikokusama and Bonodori dances. Ears listened as they sang the Sakura song. Our minds opened to take in the story of Benizara Kakezara, an old Japanese drama that the group performed in English! Our memory was forever branded with Shi-Shi, the creature that bites you so that you may have good luck. Good luck brought these performers to our city. We hope our fortune holds and that these friends will someday return to Hot Springs. ♦



*Soko draws from the Mountain Tower.*



*Miya teaches Shi-Shi movements to students at Hot Springs Middle School.*



*Makiko, Yoshiko, and Soko at Hot Springs Convention Center.*



*Mickey Hulsey, Yuko, and Takako experience a therapy room at the First Step School.*



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