

Sister City Journal

Hot Springs Sister City Program
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"Dedicated to fostering global awareness and appreciation through cultural exchanges and shared experiences"

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YOUNG ARTISTS SHOWCASE



SCI Young Artists Showcase and What's Up Docs?

For the first time, Hot Springs and Hanamaki will jointly participate in two cultural events – the Sister Cities International (SCI) Showcase of Young Artists and the What's Up Docs? children's documentary film festival. The Hot Springs Sister City Program, Fine Arts Center of Hot Springs and the Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival are partnering to sponsor the two events.

The theme for SCI's 50th Anniversary is "What Does Global Citizenship Look Like?" Hot Springs and Hanamaki students between 13 and 18 years of age are encouraged to creatively express the theme in an innovative manner by submitting original artwork in one of two categories: Two-Dimensional Artwork and Short Film/Documentary.

The local juried competition deadline is March 17. Student entries from Hanamaki and Hot Springs will be displayed (and documentaries will be shown) at the historic Malco Theatre during the April 7 Gallery Walk. One winner from each category in each city will be sent to SCI for display in a public venue in Washington, D.C. during SCI's 50th Anniversary Conference, July 13-16, 2006. Each of the 11 finalists will receive \$300, a certificate and press coverage. For an entry form and specific contest guidelines, contact Nan Wayne, Fine Arts Center director, 624-0489, nanwayne@sbcglobal.net.

"What's Up Docs?" a documentary film festival for children in grades K-6, will involve Hot Springs and Hanamaki students viewing a 45-minute compilation of short, upbeat documentaries geared to young audiences, with diverse topics ranging from the environment to science and art. In April, this will turn into a global experience, providing the opportunity for students in each country to discuss the films with their pen pals via mail or e-mail. Hot Springs students will view the films during April 5-7 at the Malco Theater; Hanamaki students will have classroom viewings. Target schools for this project are the sister schools Fountain Lake Elementary and Hanamaki's Sasama Daini Elementary; however, all area students are encouraged to participate. For more information on What's Up Docs?, call 321-4747 or visit <http://www.hsdfi.org>. ♦



A publication of the
Hot Springs Sister City Program
Hot Springs, Arkansas, USA

Volume 4, Issue 1 Spring 2006

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Hanamaki students visit Spa City



Hanamaki and Hot Springs students sing songs in Japanese and English at the reception given by Hanamaki as a "thank you" to host families for hosting students in their homes.

Upcoming events

March 17, 2006
Young Artists Showcase
Competition deadline

March 20, 2006
Teacher Scholarship
application deadline

April 26, 2006
Hanamaki City
Rebirth Celebration

June 2006
Hot Springs students
visit Hanamaki

June 2006
Teacher Scholarship
trip to Hanamaki

July 13-15, 2006
Sister Cities
International Conference,
Washington, D.C.

In January, volunteers welcomed the first official delegation under the newly merged City of Hanamaki. This group consisted of 20 students (4 high school and 16 junior high school); two city representatives (Mr. Ichiro Fudai, Friendship Exchange Division and Miss Akiko Takeda, International Exchange Association); two teachers (Mr. Ryohei Terui and Mrs. Megumi Kikuchi); and one tour conductor (Yoko Arihara). Thirteen Hot Springs families offered their homes to the visitors. Of these host families, there were eight "veterans" and five "first time" participants.

The schedule was packed with many places to see and things to do. After a quick tour of Little Rock, the next stop was MidAmerica Science Museum. The following day began with a visit to Jim and Barbara Larkin at Fox Pass Pottery. The students watched Jim use the potter's wheel, where he later allowed a few brave students to create pieces. At First Step, they helped the children make easy origami patterns, enjoying playground time together afterwards.

Lakeside science teacher Kathy Roberts worked very hard to prepare and organize afternoon activities for the students' environmental project. Ranger Mark Blauer of the National Park Service and John Wainscott and Clem Lambeth of Weyerhaeuser Company interacted with the students and helped sharpen the focus on the environmental theme.

The teachers and chaperones visited Ms. Brenda Scarbrough's class at Fountain Lake Elementary School, the sister school to Sasama Daini Elementary School. Principal Roy Johnson personally gave the group a tour of the school. The students in Ms. Scarbrough's class had their names written in English and Japanese on a name card. Before leaving the class, several students had already practiced writing their names in Japanese. They also had fun learning some of the games Japanese children play. ♦

Editor's Corner



*Theodocia Latham
Sister City Program
Coordinator*

2006 will surely be a hit! We started the year with our student/teacher delegation visit packed full of places to see and things to do. Sharon Waxler, President of the Hot Springs National Park Sister City Foundation, presented Ms. Dorothy Morris a certificate of appreciation for the Dorothy Morris Foundation's generous contribution in the amount of \$1,000 for the student exchange program. There are so many great things we are expecting and looking forward to this year! We hope you will partner with us in our many endeavors in 2006.

I want to thank the host families for opening their hearts and homes to the delegation to provide a good experience the students may cherish for life. We appreciate the citizens of Hot Springs for all the "southern hospitality" given to our guests from Hanamaki. Thank you to the translators (Mickey Hulsey, Janet Cheek, Joel Railsback, Rina Miller, and Mariko Cobb). We have several volunteers helping behind the scenes. I know I cannot name each person, but I want to recognize a few who have assisted in various ways: Roz Hudson, Sissi Bennett, Kathy Roberts, Paula Bettis, Debbie Rushing, and Chris Cullum at Impressive Video. A special thank you to the following organizations in partnering with us: Regions Bank, Hot Springs Mountain Tower, Fox Pass Pottery, First Step, Jimmy Sample and staff at the Hot Springs Convention Center, Lakeside School District, Hot Springs School District, Fountain Lake School District, the great staff at the Sentinel-Record, The Basket House, Mark Blauer of the National Park Service, John Wainscott and Clem Lambeth of Weyerhaeuser, Chamber of Commerce, Extension Homemakers Club, Embassy Suites Hotel, and several other business that have provided services to us.

Again, thank you to everyone who has participated in the program or assisted the program in any area. We appreciate the community efforts in supporting this delegation, previous delegations, and future delegations. ♦

ATTENTION EDUCATORS!

Would you like to learn more about Hanamaki, Japan and share what you've learned with others? The HSNP Sister City Foundation awards a teacher scholarship annually for summer travel to Hanamaki. The scholarship is open to all local public K-12 teachers or administrators. The application deadline is **March 20, 2006**. For guidelines, visit the Document Center at www.cityhs.net or call 321-6806.

Key to Hanamaki City

Mayor Mike Bush was presented the key to the City of Hanamaki by Ichiro Fudai, assistant manager of the Hanamaki Friendship Exchange Division. Hanamaki recently merged with three surrounding cities (Ohasama, Ishidoriya, and Towa) to become Hanamaki City on January 1, 2006.



At a recent City Board meeting, Ichiro Fudai, Friendship Exchange Division, presented Mayor Mike Bush with a plaque giving him the key to the newly-merged Hanamaki City.

A new mayor was chosen in early February to carry on the mission of Hanamaki City. Mr. Mitsuo Oishi, a former city assembly member, has already pledged his support of the Sister City relationship.

We congratulate Mayor Oishi and look forward to working with him to continue to strengthen and expand the Sister City Program. ♦

Survey provides feedback

The students and host families were both surveyed in January in order to provide feedback that will be useful in planning future student delegation visits. Detailed survey results can be found in the Document Center of the city's Web site at www.cityhs.net.



"As always, it has been an excellent experience. We would gladly do it again. We feel that it is a great way to expose our children to other cultures."
- Host family

"Participating in this visit has changed my life. I want to pass on this experience to younger students and tell them to go on this program."
- Hanamaki exchange student

Sister City Foundation News



*Sharon Waxler
HSNPSCF President*

The New Year has arrived and the Sister City Foundation is eagerly anticipating new and wonderful possibilities for 2006. Will it be possible to raise enough money to reach our goal of helping send area students to Japan? Time and commitment by our board AND generous donations by our supporters will answer that question. One area resident by the name of Dorothy Morris has already given the HSNPSCF a jumpstart by donating \$1,000 to the Student Exchange Program. She has a vision - a dream to broaden the culture of area students and stretch their understanding of the world by making it possible for them to travel to Hanamaki, our beautiful sister city. We are so thankful for her genuine interest in this important endeavor. May her gift be the beginning of many more contributions to come! Our thanks to Dorothy and the Morris Foundation.

I would also like to recognize National Park Medical Center for their gift of \$2,500 to help with our teacher exchange program. Without wonderful benefactors like NPMC, we would not be able to send teachers each year to visit Hanamaki City. Thank you, NPMC.

The student and adult delegation from Hanamaki City arrived for their annual visit to Hot Springs in January. We had numerous area families open their doors to host the students and citizens to host the chaperones. They visited the Hot Springs, Lakeside, and Fountain Lake schools. Many area families have now become repeat hosts. Once you host a young girl or boy from Japan, you, and especially your children, get so attached to that student that when the next year rolls around you can't wait to host again! I know because that is how the experience touched my family. Thank you to all the families, teachers, and volunteers that helped with the 2006 visit.

If you would like to take the opportunity right now to match Mrs. Morris' donation, or NPMC's donation, or give a gift of ANY amount to either our student exchange program or general fund, please mail your tax-deductible check to:

Hot Springs Sister City Program
P.O. Box 30484
Hot Springs, AR, 71903

Stayed tuned to find out the answer to the question in the first paragraph! ♦

A Sister City's caring children

A Slidell, LA family who evacuated ahead of Hurricane Katrina arrived on a January afternoon at the Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce to help welcome a delegation of students and teachers from Hanamaki, Japan. The Emery family were the first beneficiaries of a donation fund established by Hanamaki City especially for student evacuees living in the Hot Springs area.



Pictured from left: Sharon Waxler, HSNPSCF President, Dorothy Morris, founder of the Morris Foundation, Ichiro Fudai, Hanamaki Friendship Exchange Division, and Theodocia Latham, Sister City Program Coordinator. Waxler gave Morris a certificate of appreciation for her contribution.

It's a small world filled with caring children. The children from Hot Springs' sister city were touched by the stories of Hurricane Katrina. They heard that evacuees with children had relocated to Hot Springs. They wanted to help and raised more than \$3,500, which has already helped purchase shoes, jackets and board games for the evacuee families.

At the Chamber of Commerce, the Hanamaki students and adults visited with each other and took pictures together. Everyone left with good feelings and positive experiences. Some of the children hope to visit Hanamaki City in the future. ♦



The Emery family, front, welcome the arriving student/teacher delegation from Hanamaki.

- Rosalind Hudson, Director, Volunteer Center of Hot Springs and Garland County and Hot Springs National Park Sister City Foundation board member