

# NIKKO NEWS



Fall 2008 Volume 16 Issue 3

Official Publication of Rapid City – Nikko City Sister City Association, Inc.

## Spotlight On: *Kathy Petersen*

She is the type of person every volunteer group wants in their organization. Kathy Petersen has and continues to be a superior contributor to our Sister City Association. In Kathy's opinion she does not need to be in the limelight but our Association would be negligent if we did not recognize her for her efforts.



From Left to right: Amy Petersen, Kathy Petersen and Tadakatsu Abe

Kathy became involved with Sister City when her daughter Amy traveled to Japan as a summer exchange student in 2002. The Association encourages parents of exchange students to continue their relationship with the association. This is needed to continue the mighty efforts volunteers put forward to make our exchange program a success.

Kathy was heavily involved with making the Japanese summer exchange student visit a fast, fun

and educational flurry of activity filled days. Kathy made sure all the visiting students got to see the sights and enjoy the variety of activities the Black Hills has to offer. In addition, any of our students who were part of the outbound summer exchange were invited to participate. Kathy worked tirelessly calling merchants for discounts, donations, getting drivers and many more details that were behind the scenes, but necessary to run a successful program. Kathy produced a detailed account of activities, donations, expenses and what worked and didn't work. This proved invaluable to her successor.

Kathy was very involved with our annual fundraiser, organizing the students who served the meals to the paying public. She educated them on their duties as servers to make the event run smoothly. Her hard work was appreciated by the board and all of whom were involved with the dinners.

Kathy and Dell, Kathy's husband, welcomed the visiting students and their host families to their country home many times. Unique experiences were in order as Paula Camp offered horseback rides and Dell gave roping lessons. Probably

didn't make any cowboys from the guests but they definitely got a picture of an America we all take for granted.

Kathy was welcomed to the board and was immediately immersed into the secretarial duties. She carried out these duties by attending all meeting, reading through past minutes checking on past policies and other questions that arose. The board knew that the position of secretary was confidently and competently filled by Kathy.

When asked for her thoughts about her involvement with the Sister City Association Kathy responded: "My participation in the association has always given back more than it has taken. The friendship with fellow members, adult and student Japanese exchange participants, and local host and US exchange families is a reward and benefit of active participation. Each year folks' willingness to participate has amazed me. If you haven't been involved, please make it a priority this year! Driving, hosting, attending association socials, visiting Japan, volunteering for a board position -- the possibilities are endless.

## Schedule of Events

### NOVEMBER

MID MONTH – Planning Session for Setting Association Goals

30 – Fall Social in Afternoon at Peace Officers Association Recreation Facility



### Members for Life Program



Members for Life is an association program to recognize members for generous donations. The donor/s are awarded lifetime membership in the association and presented a commemorative plaque. Designated Members for Life are Marloe and Dr. Reuben Bareis for their donation to the Scholarship Fund and Sharon and Chip Rasmusson for their donation to the general fund.

For more information on the Members for Life Program please contact Sharon or Chip Rasmusson.

### Social Committee



Put Sunday afternoon, November 30<sup>th</sup> on your save a date calendar. This will be a chance for members and families to get together and bring and share some of their favorite Holiday goodies. We are planning to have our summer exchange students attend and share their experiences. Other than that no agenda other than enjoying each other company and travel experiences. We have reserved the Peace Officers Association recreation facility for that date.

JANUARY 12, 2009 – Proposed Date for Annual Membership Meeting

### Rapid City – Nikko City Sister City Association, Inc.

300 Sixth Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701

The Honorable Alan Hanks  
Mayor of Rapid City – Honorary

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Co-President  
Chip & Sharon Rasmusson. . . . . 341-3664

Vice President  
Travis Sutterfield. . . . . 945-0520

Treasurer  
Sharon Rasmusson. . . . . 341-3664

Secretary  
Jenny & Clint Van Zanten. . . . . 343-2510

#### COMMITTEES

Board Chair  
Paula Camp. . . . . 721-0345

Publicity  
Kevin Krejcarek. . . . . 716-0125

Education & Student Exchange  
Deb Rypkema. . . . . 431-2030  
Jenny Van Zanten. . . . . 343-2510

Fundraising  
OPEN POSITION

Historical/Archival  
Judy Allen. . . . . 343-1911

Adult Exchange  
Chip & Sharon Rasmusson. . . . . 341-3664

Sports  
Michael O' Connor. . . . . 719-9900

Membership  
Chip Rasmusson. . . . . 341-3664

Social  
OPEN POSITION

The deadline for articles is March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1. Nikko News is published quarterly: Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. Send articles and photos to: Becky Robinson at [concept.emerge@gmail.com](mailto:concept.emerge@gmail.com)

# Presidential Outlook

Summer draws to a close and our students who visited Japan are back in the classroom. Hope you all had a chance to read Zoe Kuegle's report in the Rapid City Journal about the activities the group enjoyed while visiting Nikko. We look forward to getting reports from the students at the social we will be having in November

The Association welcomed 19 students from Nikko in mid July. Jenny Van Zanten did a wonderful job of getting everything organized and conducting a great experience for the visitors. Mother Nature cooperated most of the time and the Alpine slide ride was one of the few things to get rained out. The group was treated to a hail storm while visiting Mt. Rushmore. It was a new experience for most and getting hit with a dime sized hail stone can sting as you are running for cover.

Preparations are in the final stage for this year's Adult delegation to Nikko. The following members have tickets in hand and are ready to go: Pat and Stu Robinson and their niece Becky Robinson, Hope Canady, Judy and Bill Duhamel and the Rasmussons. We can easily add a couple more people into the group if your schedule allows.

We have included a picture of some of our members who visited Nikko this summer. Professor Roger Miller of Black Hills State University arranges tours of Japan for students from BHSU. This year Roger, BHSU student Darcy Lenz, and Darcy's grandmother, Jean, were able to spend some time in Nikko as part of their tour. As usual they were treated to the great Nikko hospitality. Satomi, Yukio and Hisako are on the Nikko City International Staff and we truly appreciate their willingness to make our members visits more enjoyable when they visit Nikko.

We will be having a board planning session in November to look at what the Board envisions for the Association goals in 2009. We will be taking a look back at our achievements in the past and how we can do them better. Then there are projects and committees we have hardly paid lip service in the last few years. We will decide if we can reinvigorate them in the future or drop them. We will also look at new projects we would like to do in the future. A message will go to the membership on the location and date

with a welcome to anyone from the membership who would like to attend and contribute.

Like to remind you that the Rapid City web site at [rcgov.org](http://rcgov.org) has a path to Rapid City Sister Cities. It is an excellent source of information about our Association and programs. We try to include a good cross section of our activities in each newsletter and the most recent newsletters can be found on the web site. When you get questions on our association consider referring the individual to the web site for additional information. In case you missed Zoe Kuegle's report in the Rapid City Journal, the article will be on our web site on [rcgov.org](http://rcgov.org) very soon.

On the subject of web sites, Nikko City has one that you can access in English. Go to [www.city.nikko.lg.jp](http://www.city.nikko.lg.jp) and the Japanese language web page will come up. Select either of the ovals with Japanese text. The page that comes up will have an English link on the upper right hand side. Selecting this link will take you to the Welcome to Nikko site in English.



From left to right: Satomi Suzuki, Rodger, Yukio Yoshizawa, Darcy, Jean, and Hisako Jones.

Chip & Sharon

## SUMMER EXCHANGE STUDENTS



### Nikko Summer Exchange Students with Their Honorary Citizen Certificates

Front Row: Saeka Yoshida, Misaki Ishikawa, Saya Akutsu, Naomi Shibata, Haruka Ban, Hideyuki Akutsu.

Second Row: Shoko Kikuchi, Tae Hiraki, Emi Kojima, Mari Kaneko, Mako Kikuchi, Chiharu Tanaka, Ayaka Yamada

Back Row - Momoko Isikawa, Haruka Ashikawa, Yukina Yamakoshi, Mayor Alan Hanks, Atsushi Shibata, Miki Ugajin, Taka-Aki Kubo, Chaperone Satomi Suzuki

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