

Newsletter of the
West Oahu Y's Men's Club
of Mililani YMCA,
Oahu, Hawaii

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Brother Club Affiliation
HIROSHIMA Y'S MEN CLUB



West Oahu Y's Men's

Y's WORDS

Japan
Special #3

Other Website of Interest
www.ysmenusa.com
www.hawaiiysmen.org

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Walter Osakoda

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JAPAN 2010 ... PART 3 ..

Bob has some more memories of our June trip to Japan.

HIROSHIMA . . .

As we had detailed in our previous article on the Japan West Region Convention, the Hiroshima Y's Men and five other clubs comprising their District, the Nishi-Chugoku District, hosted the Japan West Region Convention. With a membership in the District of under 90 members, the hosting of a convention with a region of 2,000 members required a major commitment by all members.

But members of our brother club and the other clubs of the Nishi-Chugoku District did very well in hosting us foreigners and a regional convention that they had not done in 27 years.

The club's leadership placed two very accomplished English speaking guides at our disposal.

The club could then direct their attention to hosting the convention. The host district members were very visible throughout the convention in their blue shirts, providing direction and information to any and everyone, and providing manpower for the hospitality gatherings.

Our guides were licensed tour guides. The first, Kumiko Tanimoto was our correspondence person during our planning. She is a Y's Mennette with the Hiroshima Higashi Y's Men and was the District Service Director for Y's Mennettes. Her husband, a member of the Hiroshima Higashi Y's Men, is an English professor at the university and is often used as an interpreter for various conferences and meetings. He was one of the interpreters at the International Convention in Yokohama.

Because of Kumiko's other responsibilities (she had to make a report at the Y's Mennette meeting during the convention and was the co-emcee for the Convention Dinner) she greeted us on Friday and escorted us to Miyajima Island on Monday. Friday night, Saturday and Sunday was the responsibility of Mitsue Nagao. Mitsue is the sister-in-law of Katsuhide Akebane of the Hiroshima Y's Men's Club and Chairman for the Japan West Region Convention. (Because of her abilities in the English language, the Hiroshima Y's Men wish her to join their club.)

Both attractive ladies were very helpful in explaining some of the Japanese customs, in addition to the details during our stay in Hiroshima.

We did enjoy the time we had with the Y's Men in Hiroshima. Besides meeting them individually, we shared two gatherings with them: the Sunday luncheon during their Domestic Brother Club and International Brother Club get-together and dinner to celebrate the



Convention opening shows all banners ... District ... and all clubs in district. So, how cum we don't do this at ours???



Duke toast with DG Takemoto.



Our two guides in Hiroshima, Kumiko Tanimoto (left) and Mitsue Nagao. I recommend them as your guide for your visit!



Our group with then IP-E Hirotooshi Fujii and his wife.



Girls with Kazuyuki Shimobo and Kumiko Tanimoto, our guides to Miyajima Island.



Linda presents gift to DBC representative.



Jeanette presents gift to DBC representative.



Mr. Kamikubo Shoji addresses group during DBC luncheon.



Linda confers with Miyajima Island resident.



Check out the rice paddy on Miyajima Island.



Jeanette and Setsuko Mori in front of Zen Temple.



Walter, Dorothy and Kosei Watanabe during lunch.



Dorothy, Yoshiko Nishimura, Jeanette and Linda in gardens of Zen Temple.



Group picture after dinner. (Missing are Shinjiro Mori and Yasuko Nishimura.)



just completed Japan West Region Convention.

We did find some surprises and changes when we arrived ... The Hiroshima Y's Men's Club roster has changed some. ... Mr. Etsushi Watanabe, who was our contact person during our last visit in 2007, is now a member of the Kure Y's Men's Club ... Mr. Susumu Yamano, son of a key member who came to Hawaii for our Brother Club signing, has moved to the Hiroshima Nishi club ... (I guess it is part of their way of extension, when members from the sponsoring club create the nucleus for the new club.)

The Hiroshima YMCA General Secretary has changed. Mr. Kazuyuki Shimobo has retired (end of March). And Mr. Kamikubo Shoji is his successor. Both are active Y's Men in the Hiroshima club.

The Domestic Brother Club program .. is something new to us. Apparently, it establish relationships with clubs within the region. It encourages members to attend the regional convention as a means to extend their fellowship among members.

KYOTO . . A Memorable 8 Hours in Kyoto

by Duke and Linda Chung

Our original itinerary did not include visiting Kyoto, but at the invitation of friends Hiroshi and Yasuko Nishimura and Shinjiro and Setsuko Mori of the Kyoto Prince Y's Men's Club, we were able to stop in Kyoto on our way from Hiroshima to Nagoya. Hiroshi and Shinjiro met us at the train station and took us in their private cars on a wonderful and memorable visit of Kyoto.

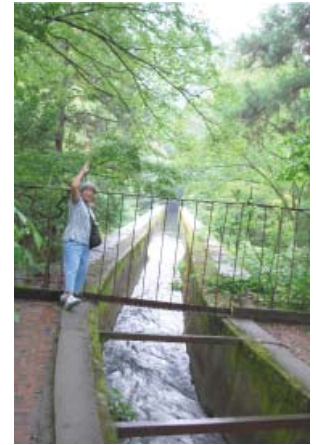
Our visit started with a delicious lunch of cold or hot noodles and other goodies with the Nishimura' and Mori's and Kosei Watanabe at a restaurant with, thank goodness, tables and chairs. We were able to make a short visit to BIONEST restaurant and business and visited with Kosei and Junko Watanabe. We then visited the Tenjuan, an ancient Zen temple built in the 1200 - 1300 BC. The structures and grounds were beautiful. Duke and I just marveled at the architecture, gardens, and huge trees that surrounded the temple.

We then went for refreshments at a very high-end coffee shop where they served great coffee and delicious desserts - Jeanette had a giant shave ice with ice cream and other good stuff mixed in.

Shinjiro also made arrangements with his friend for us to visit his kimono-making establishment, Kodai Yuzen-en, and saw an artisan painting kimono fabric. We saw beautiful old kimonos on display and had a chance to make designs on fabric using stencils. This was a very special treat and we all had a great time.

The visit ended with a dinner including other members of the Kyoto Prince Y's Men's Club at a restaurant sans chairs but thankfully leg wells. We had a chance to "talk story" and get to know other members and their wives. As usual the food was fantastic and the company even better. We were sorry our visit came to an end. Our gracious hosts Hiroshi, Yasuko, Shinjiro and Setsuko took us to the train station and waited with us until the train arrived. Before we parted they presented each of us with a very generous omiage. It was certainly a memorable 8 hours in Kyoto.

Currently West Oahu members are considering a return trip. We are awaiting the Kyoto Prince Club to extend an invitation to attend the Japan West Convention in Kyoto in 2011 or attend their 25th Anniversary in the Fall. If you are interested, let us know. If we decide to go, we will start planning sometime in the latter part of this year or early next year.



Jeanette along water viaduct that feeds to Kyoto's water system.



Entering Junko and Kosei Watanabe's restaurant.



Group outside Junko and Kosei Watanabe's restaurant.



Walter tries his Yuzen artwork.



Linda and Bob ready to start.