

Alumni News

Ishikawa Alumni Association

March
2000
NO.1



Message from the Chief Managing Director

同窓生の皆さん、ご入会、心より歓迎申し上げます。さて、「いしかわ同窓会」は留学や研修等で石川県に暮らし、帰国後も石川県に関心と愛情を持ち続けて下さる海外の皆さんに、石川と永い交流と会員相互の集いの場として活用いただく目的で発足しました。

実際、「Alumni News」というニューズレターやインターネットを通じて、会員相互のコミュニケーションやネットワークの促進に努めています。同窓生の皆さんも、自分自身や自国の紹介、特ダネニュースなどを事務局へ郵便またはファックス、電子メールで送付下さい。その中から面白い記事を掲載しようと思います。また、ホームページアドレスをお持ちの方もご紹介できます。

現在会員は、800名を越えました。石川県で暮らし、帰国されてからも石川県との交流を続け、それぞれの国、地域で定期的に集まっている方々もいらっしゃいます。石川県とのより緊密な関係を続けていくために、どんどん会員数が増え、世界の各国、各地域との文化交流が盛んになる事を願っています。あなたの力を待っています。

いしかわ同窓会事務局
財団法人石川県国際交流協会内
専務理事 越田 曾登代



Dear Alumni Members

We warmly accept your entry to the Ishikawa Alumni Association.

The Ishikawa Alumni Association was established with the aim of making a global circle of friends who love Ishikawa prefecture, Japan. Our mission is to promote cultural ties between Ishikawa prefecture and non-Japanese who have stayed in Ishikawa and continue to have affections and interests in Ishikawa even after returning to their respective home countries.

We promote communication and networking among alumni through our official publication, the *Alumni News* and interactions on the internet. Members are strongly encouraged to submit ideas, personal stories, commentaries and other materials for publication for cultural understanding. Please e-mail, send, or fax word processed materials to the Ishikawa Alumni Association Secretariat Office.

Over 800 members are currently enlisted in the IAA. Some groups of members hold regular gatherings in their countries and maintain their links with Ishikawa after ending their stay in Ishikawa. We strongly encourage this long last-

ing friendship. It is our hope that the number of members will grow as we continue our efforts to promote cultural exchange in the global community.

We appreciate your enrollment and cooperation.

Sotoyo Koshida
Chief Managing Director
The Secretariat of
The Ishikawa Alumni Association
Ishikawa Foundation for International Exchange

CONTENTS

Message from the Chief Managing Director	1
Letter from Alumni	2
Alumni Links	3
Ishikawa Info	4

Delightful Cultural and Art Experience in Ishikawa

Judith Blake

In July 1987, I had the pleasure of attending classes at the Ishikawa International Culture Exchange Center sponsored by the Society to Introduce Kanazawa to the World in Ishikawa. I had been looking for a place to study Japanese art and culture for the summer and had written to many schools. No one offered what I wanted. But in my research I received a lovely brochure from Kanazawa. It was for a language school, but they also offered classes in Japanese culture. It was worded in a very inviting fashion. I thought, "Well, I can study some of the language, get to know about the culture, and maybe meet some nice people who will advise me where to go for my five-week stay." What actually happened far exceeded my hopes and expectations!

I arrived three days late for the group language class and we all agreed that I could not possibly catch up. They clearly didn't know what to do with me! They had placed me in *ryokan* or Japanese inn with some serious students of Japanese language. Everyone was very kind and helpful, but we were in an awkward situation.

I had read somewhere on my way that Kanazawa is the center for Kaga Yuzen, silk dyeing. I am an artist and art teacher. My specialties are batik and other forms of dyeing fabric. I suggested, "Why not give me cultural classes, instead?" They felt that was impossible. After all, this was a language school! I made it very clear that I was truly interested in not only seeing the kimono painting, but that I wanted to actually do some myself. "Impossible!" they said. "Possible!" I said, "I'm sure there's somebody who knows somebody who can get me into a studio." I was right! Mrs. Momoyo Ida had read in a newspaper that a very renowned master named Ochida-sensei had given a little class in Kaga Yuzen to some school children recently. She contacted him, and then we were invited over to his studio. After some discussion during which I understood nothing, he decided to accept me as a student for ten mornings! It was one of the most wonderful experiences of my life.

To talk about those ten wonderful days would be an entire chapter. I experienced all the different processes in the painting of kimono and produced a lovely little piece of my own to take home. Such a treasure! And I was immersed in a special little world of master artists in a culture I was

just beginning to learn about. In the meantime, I had to promise to take private language classes in the afternoons.

Not only did I study Kaga Yuzen; I took classes in *sumi-e* or ink painting, *ikebana* or flower arrangement and tea ceremony. I used my newly acquired words each day at the studio, much to the amusement of the artists. They had a hefty dose of what an independent American woman with a healthy sense of humor was like. One young lady wrote to me later, saying I had a very powerful personality. I guess I do.

I wandered around Kanazawa, enjoying Kenrokuen, shopping, learning to eat with chopsticks, eating sushi, and practicing my Japanese. I also made a life-long friend with Ida-san.

I was sad when my two weeks were finished, but my goals were more than met. I had met many wonderful people and had very special experiences. I knew enough Japanese to introduce myself, be polite, order food, ask directions, and understand the answers! I cannot even tell you all the ways in which this experience has enriched my life.

I now have a first-hand knowledge of some of the Japanese art techniques and a clearer appreciation of Japanese art. I have continued my studies in *sumi-e*, and even took some classes in Chinese painting when I moved to Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. I have been a star student. I have an impressive collection of brushes, inks, and papers, and teach some techniques to my art students every year.

Thanks to many Japanese friends I have made since then, I have a lovely collection of prints and books. One very special friend has given me several rather valuable silk kimono that his more modern family inherited but do not value. My home is enriched with the many articles of Japanese art and craft I have collected. Recently I purchased a very expensive book on *shibori*, one of the Japanese dyeing techniques, which I have begun to experiment with and have taught to my students.

My relationship with my Japanese students and their parents is a very special one. They appreciate my attempts to communicate with them in their own language, as well as my interest in their art and culture. When the parents visit, I greet them in Japanese and make little jokes about my use of the language. In fact, I have been told that I brought many ►

Peggy Skycraft *Skycraft.com*

I visited Ishikawa prefecture with a small group of friends on a tour of traditional crafts sites in Japan. It was a wonderful experience for me and I hope to visit again with more time to explore.

I am a paper artist in Oregon, which is in the Northwest part of the USA. My home and studio is on a 30-acre farm in the foothills of the Cascades, a big mountain range which goes down the middle of the state. We are near the city, Portland, a metropolitan area of about one million.

My specialty is handmade decorative papers, which I make in editions for bookbinders, interior decorators, picture framers, and artists who use them in various collage projects. This studio is my only business and supports myself, my husband, and a helper. I do not actually make the fiber part of the paper but purchase machine made paper to work on.

While I was in Japan, I managed to purchase some wonderful papers, both the plain washi and stencil-painted

types. These patterned papers are very much in demand by artists here. Traditional Japanese paper is highly respected and widely used by printmakers, painters, calligraphers, and collage artists.

If anyone wants to know about my paper, my website is: www.skycraft.com. ■



Art Experience from page 2

◀ new students to the school because of that.

I have traveled in many other countries since this time and always meet Japanese people with whom I can speak and share a laugh or two. On airplanes, in restaurants, in stores, at museums, on a cruise ship on the Nile and around the Greek islands. It has been a lot of fun.

Have I been back to Japan? Three times. Now I work in Kuala Lumpur but I have a home in the US. So I have a stop-over in Osaka. I visited a friend in Tokyo for a week and enjoyed the changing leaves in October in Hakone and Nikko. This past summer I visited Kanazawa as a guest of my friend, Ida-san, with whom I have been corresponding ever since my first trip. I also visited Kyoto and Nara again.

I was sorry to see that the International Center is no

longer around, but I did take a short lesson at the Ishikawa International Lounge not far from there. And Ida-san and I took a class in another new interest, *e-tegami* or pictorial letter at a department store. I do hope you continue to "Introduce Kanazawa to the World." It's made a world of difference in my life. I'm sure others have been so touched as well! ■

Judith Blake is originally from Connecticut in the north of the US. She has been a teacher for 35 years including her overseas career which started in 1978. She has taught art in Venezuela and Kuwait and is now in Malaysia.

Alumni are encouraged to submit ideas, letters, personal stories, commentaries, and other materials for publication. Please e-mail, send, or fax word processed materials to the Ishikawa Alumni Association Secretariat Office. IAA reserves the right to edit or reject any submission.

韓国いしかわ同窓会設立

石川県では、現在環日本海諸国、なかでも最も近い国である韓国との地域間交流に積極的に取り組んでおり、昨年秋には知事が訪韓し、伝統文化と歴史豊かな南西部地域の全羅北道（チョルラブド）との地域間交流がスタートしました。また同時期に、ソウル市で行われた韓国からの技術研修員で組織される「白山会」の設立25周年記念式典において、韓

国いしかわ同窓会が設立されました。

これで、デンマーク、スウェーデン、中国江蘇省に続く4番目の地域オフライン同窓会ができたことになります。皆さんの国や地域でもそういった同窓会結成の動きや要望があれば事務局までぜひお知らせ下さい。

能登空港2003年開港予定

石川県としての大きなプロジェクトのひとつに能登空港の整備があります。これは、小松空港に次ぐ本県第2の玄関として能登半島の北部に建設するもので、2003年の開港を目指し着々と工事が進んでいます。完成すれば、東京や大阪などから直行便が就航することになっており、美しい自然環境や豊かな観光資源に恵まれた能登へのアクセスがとても便利になります。皆さんの中にも、再び石川県に来る機会のある方もいるかと思いますが、2003年以降はぜひ能登空港も利用してみてください。



●能登空港完成予想パース

●石川ジャパニーズセミナー好評

1987年にスタートした「石川ジャパニーズセミナー」、皆さんの中にも参加された方がいらっしゃると思いますが、これはホームステイをしながら短期間で日本語と日本文化を効率よく学べるプログラムとして諸外国の大学からも好評を博しており、参加者についても年々増加しています。今年度は、6カ国から154名の参加があり、参加者に

は研修終了後「いしかわ同窓会」にも入会していただきました。石川県では、このセミナーを本県国際化推進事業の柱として非常に重視しており、内容等もより一層も充実させていきたいと思っています。皆さんの中で、セミナーに対するご意見・ご希望等がありましたらぜひお知らせ下さい。

●国際交流・協力DAYS「ちょっと教えて素朴な疑問」

1999年11月13日、14日、20日の3日間、金沢市の石川県国際交流センターを主会場に、「世界のファッションショー」や「日本文化発表会」、「外国人・日本人による討論会」等多彩な国際交流・協力プログラムが催されました。なかでも討論会では「ちょっと教えて素朴な疑問」というテーマで白熱した討論が繰り広げられ、改めて日本人と外国人との考え方の違いを感じさせられました。皆さんも来県された当時、日本あるいは石川県の習慣の違いにとまどったりおかしいなと思ったりした経験はなかったでしょうか。



●日本の着物でファッションショー



●茶道体験をする石川ジャパニーズセミナー生



●白熱する外国人・日本人による討論会

●外国人による日本語スピーチコンテスト県知事賞決まる！

2000年1月29日、石川県国際交流センターにて「外国人による日本語スピーチコンテスト」が開催されました。このコンテストも今回で18回目を迎え、本県への留学生数等の増加に伴い参加者のレベルの方も年々高くなってきています。今回は「石川ジャパニーズセミナー」で研修中の韓国外国語大学やモナシュ大学の学生も含め、合計28名が参加し、日頃の日本語学習の成果を発表しました。中国モン



ゴル自治区出身の阿依古麗哈（あい・ぐりは）さんが見事石川県知事賞を受賞しました。このスピーチ内容等に関心があれば、事務局まで問い合わせて下さい。

●県知事賞に輝いた阿依古麗哈さん