



Dr. Osamu Nawata, left, explores healthcare practice in the U.S. with Sunnyvale's Dr. Takashi Yoshida.

AEP Begins - First Adults Exchanged!

BY RON ZIELINSKI

Henry Ford once said, "Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young."

If true, our Adult Exchange Program (AEP) is a fountain of youth. Our first splash took place from May 1st-3rd when Dr. Nawata and his family from Iizuka, Japan stayed at the family home of Sunnyvale's Dr. Yoshida, fulfilling the first half of our inaugural adult exchange. This AEP match pair was doubly matched as the two physicians are also devoted Rotary Club members, and Dr. Nawata attended a Sunnyvale Rotary club meeting and presented them an Iizuka Rotary Club flag. Dr. Nawata also visited Dr. Yoshida's medical practice where they compared the merits of our respective health and medical systems.

Impressed by Dr. Yoshida's family's hospitality, Dr. Nawata commented that it "may be difficult for me to do the same thing when Dr. Yoshida visits us this month". Perhaps so, but offering a dip in that fountain is priceless.



Dr. Takashi Yoshida (left) visiting Dr. Osamu Nawata's clinic in Iizuka, Japan. Photo credit: Naomi Fukushima

Dr. Yoshida Goes to Iizuka - Initial Adult Exchange Completed!

BY RON ZIELINSKI & NAOMI FUKUSHIMA

"Strike while the iron is hot" is a rare proverb that translates directly in both Japanese and English. Following this wisdom, long-time Sunnyvale physician, Dr. Takashi Yoshida traveled to Japan with his wife just weeks after hosting Iizuka's Nawata family, thus concluding the first chapter of our Adult Exchange Program (AEP). The result? Newly forged friendships and permanent memories, as if branded by that hot iron. Said Dr. Yoshida, "What a great experience to participate in the Adult Exchange Program. I really had a wonderful time being entertained by Dr. Nawata, his wife and Mr. Shoda (from

our AEP partner organization). This becomes an unforgettable memory in my life." To help seal this memorable exchange, Dr. Yoshida reciprocated and furnished the Iizuka Rotary Club with a Sunnyvale Rotary Club flag while attending their club meeting. Unforgettable memories are priceless in life and we are grateful to the Nawata's and the Yoshida's for trusting our program to deliver these life-enriching experiences and the memories they forge.



SUNNYVALE-IIZUKA
ADULT
EXCHANGE
PROGRAM
(AEP)

Adult Exchange Program (AEP)

BY RON ZIELINSKI

Cultural exchange enriches lives. If you are over the age of 18 and are interested in foreign culture, check out our Adult Exchange Program. Our AEP matches participants with like-minded residents of Iizuka, Japan, where you take turns traveling overseas to exchange 2-3 days of home stays and a possible workplace visit, following a schedule that you mutually determine. To register, visit our [website](#) and select [AEP Application](#) and complete the online application form. We will contact you and take it from there!



Dr. Nawata, right, holds the plaque design for bench with Mayor Hendricks. Photo: Hideki Shoda

Dr. Nawata's Mayoral Meeting

BY MARK KATO

In addition to being SSCA's first AEP participant, on May 3rd Dr. Nawata visited Sunnyvale City Hall where he met with Mayor Hendricks. During the meeting Dr. Nawata offered to donate a park bench to the city at his personal expense. Discussion about the bench's placement is just starting between SSCA and the city, with Braly Park under strong consideration. Dr. Nawata hopes his gift will end up somewhere within sight of the cherry blossoms.



Jack Ewbank, Zhimin Ding, Johney Han (kneeling), Jay Yamanaga, Gustav Larsson, Misuk Park, Susan Hartt.
Photograph by Ron Zielinski. All are being rained on at Braly Park.

No Rain Check For Sakura Viewers

BY JACK EWBANK

April showers are well and good except when they put a damp on the first SSCA Cherry Blossom Party. Regardless, spirits were high, the cherry blossom petals survived the deluge, and no lunchboxes went unclaimed. In addition to SSCA members, Sunnyvale's vice mayor Gustav Larsson attended with a guest, as did the parents of S2I students from the last two years. I'm hoping to do the event next year, with hopefully better weather.



SUNNYVALE-IIZUKA STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM (S2I)

Sunnyvale Exchange Students Prepare For Their Trip

BY JAY YAMANAGA

To prepare for this year's student exchange program, Dorothy, Akiko, Sheila, Mark and I gave our students a crash course on Japan's language, culture and geography over three days.

Our S2I students are wonderful as always, and I know their trip will be great! I can not wait to hear this year's stories. Huge thanks to Leslie Becker, Mary Crawford and Bryan Gilstein for being our chaperones.

Bon voyage!



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Current opportunities:

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- Program Manager for Student Exchange Program
- Program Manager for Sunnyvale City
- Want to help with something else? Let us know!

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