

Fukushima Kenjinkai Information

Date: 06 /10 / 2017

Name of Kenjinkai	Hokka Fukushima Nikkeijinkai (San Francisco)
Date of establishment	October 1960
Number of members	Approx. 70 members as of 06 /10 / 2017
-Name of President	Eiko Wapensky
Executive staff	Machiko Kumagai, Vice President Sachiko Endo, Secretary Kimie Hoshi, Treasurer
Contact information	T E L : (650)873-4341 F A X : E - m a i l : spilot@sbcglobal.net
Main activities	<p><u>2007</u> The United States Non-Profit Nature Conservation Organization (ARC) is Japan's first agricultural immigration colony from Aizu. Hokka Fukushima Nikkei Kai cooperated to preserve the site of the Wakamatsu Colony and everyone in the Kenjinkai worked together to gather donations.</p> <p><u>2011</u> Fukushima was seriously damaged by the Great East Japan earthquake disaster. Members collected donations from friends, and sent it to Fukushima Prefecture through the Northern California Japan Culture Community Center (JCCCNC). The donations were accepted by the Fukushima Prefecture Disaster Countermeasure Headquarters. After that, we collected donations twice. Honolulu Fukushima Kenjinkai sent them to Fukushima Prefecture through the NPO United Japan Society of Hawaii (UJSH).</p> <p><u>2012</u> At the Hokka Fukushima Nikkeijinkai's New Year's party donations were collected for the 'Save Fukushima Children' fund.</p> <p><u>2013</u> The Okei festival was held at the Wakamatsu Colony where 3 students who were personally invited by ARC members gave a speech about Earthquake and Disaster. One of the students was from Aizu Junior College and the other two were from Okayama Prefecture. Hokka Fukushima Nikkeijinkai also lent their support for the event.</p> <p><u>2014</u> Two boys and girls were invited to Fukushima Kids California by Iwaki High School. The event was sponsored by the international Ambassador NGO Women's Organization.</p>

	<p>Hokka Fukushima Nikkeijinkai and its members made donations to the NGO and worked with them.</p> <p><u>2015</u> Ten high school students (3 boys, 7 girls) were invited by Fukushima for the Fukushima Kids California program. Hokka Fukushima Nikkeijinkai, members made donations to the programme and worked with them.</p> <p><u>2015</u> Sakura Festival was held in Japan town, San Francisco. At the event Hokka Fukushima Nikkeijinkai members cooperated with Fukushima Prefecture and carried out a public survey to gauge awareness of post disaster Fukushima.</p> <p><u>2015</u> The anniversary of Emperor's Birthday was held at the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco. At the event we distributed promotional brochures about Fukushima to the guests. In addition to this, in order to dispel harmful rumors, we explained to the guests about how all products produced in Fukushima are safe since they are inspected before they reach the market.</p> <p><u>2012 to 2017</u> We sold crafts at events run by the International Ambassador NGO Women's Organization and worked to address harmful rumors by promoting the safe side of Fukushima and Fukushima products. Additionally, the younger members of our Kenjinkai sold crafts made by Iitate Madei Carnation Club at these events and others.</p>
	<p>In the past, we held social gatherings several times a year and had exchanges with members, but in recent years, we only gather at the New Year party. When we gather, it is usually around San Mateo which is in the middle. It takes about an hour's drive one way. As we age, we cannot drive or reach other members, so we are losing touch.</p> <p>After the 2011's Great East Japan Earthquake second and third generation members didn't attend any of the social gathering which were held to support their parents and grandparents home (Fukushima) but recently I'm happy to say that this has changed.</p> <p>Every member has been working hard to dispel harmful rumors about Fukushima at events by sharing information on how Fukushima prefectures products are thoroughly inspected before reaching market, ensuring food safety.</p> <p>In early March this year NHK's "Asaichi" program reported that all rice in produced in Fukushima undergoes inspection. There were many guests and participants in the program that did not know about this. Hideo Yanagisawa from Aizu, a NHK commentator, said that he feels like the fact that it is not well known falls down to problems with the media.</p>

During the World Fukushima Kenjinkai 2013 we had tours showing inspection of vegetables etc. and in 2014 we had the inspection methods for rice, marine products explained to us. Even though three or four years have passed since then There are many people within Japan who are still feeling anxious about Fukushima products. I think Media outlets outside of Japan should broadcast images of Fukushima's testing of locally produced products so that more people know about Fukushima's food safety.

Those of us who live outside of Japan must act harder to dispel harmful rumors about Fukushima. It is our duty to do this.

Hokka Fukushima Nikkeijin Kai - Shinnenkai New Years Party
February 12, 2017

