***Salem Ota Cultural Exchange***

***Monthly Meeting: September 26, 2011***

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| Erin Dolan | Dr. Joe Salerno | Nancy Nadeau |
| Suzanne Swartz | Hugh Stewart | Pam Myrie |
| Connie Arlander | Sharon Smith | Tom Burke |
| Steve Manning | Janis Manning |  |

 Someone moved to accept the September 2011 minutes. Someone else 2nd

.***Treasurer Report (Steve Manning):***

Treasurer Report was circulated to all. Minor changes from the prior month were reviewed, primarily bank fees. A quick forecast of what our finances might be at year-end, noted we should have positive cash but we need to get out our membership solicitation in November. This should include a “year in review” letter and wish list request. Erin has the wish list request from last year. Steve will forward the year in review letter for revision. Janis will coordinate the membership drive and needs volunteers to help.

Someone moved to accept Treasurer’s Report; Someone else 2nd

**Ota Updates (Erin Dolan)**

The Ota economy is still very, very bad. For the first time in anyone’s memory, there were local layoffs.

Akiko reported two in her bakery have lost jobs.

SOCE needs to think about news to communicate to our counterpart organization in Ota. They are very interested in knowing about local news or personal items regarding family, events, etc. They especially want to vitalize the connection with members they know. Please email or handwrite notes to Erin (horseberries@hotmail.com).

***News on Adult Homestay Trip:***

The communication so far has been very specific on the type of activities they would like, including meeting with the Mayor; bus to a school the same day; meeting with Dan Monroe of PEM, etc.

Discussed their desire to celebrate/recognize 20th anniversary. Decision made to push back in line with

their stated desire to move to 25th celebration given Japan situation.

13 Adults will come to Salem (8 women, 5men) plus 3 from city/travel agency.

Need 7-8 homes? 1 of which should include religious services.

Chaperones needed

Discussed doing something different for music. Peter will ask SHS about “Witch Pitch” student a capella group.

Steve will send Evite beginning with” Save the Date”

Possible Farewell party at “Blue Fin”. Hugh/Sharon to investigate.

Tentative schedule:

* Nov 2nd : Boston arrival & overnight
* Thursday, November 3rd: MFA (AM); PEM (PM); check-in Hawthorne Hotel
* Friday, November 4th: 9:30 a.m. Meeting with Mayor Driscoll, 10:15 a.m High School tour and lunch in Black Cat, 12:30 p.m. tour of Bowditch; 12:50 p.m. bus to Morse Grave
* **Volunteers needed on Friday**: Drive from the cemetery back to Hawthorne Hotel. Guests have free time until Welcome party at 6:30 p.m.
* Welcome party (site to be researched by Janis)- (Friday 6:30PM, Nov. 4th)
* Friday and Saturday evenings (11/4 and 11/5) will be homestay;
* Sunday, November 6th, Farewell party/lunch: 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
* Sunday, November 6th: Bus at 3:00 p.m. to airport. Group flies to Washington, DC

**New Business:**

Web Design – Update next month

**Next meeting**: Monday, October 24th @ 7:00 p.m. @ Putnam Pantry

Please join us for ice cream prior to the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Someone moved to adjourn; Someone else 2nd

All corrections and omissions may be sent to Elayne Alexander.

Steve should not be allowed to do the minutes ever again.

Yes the meeting is at Putnum Pantry.

The schedule for Friday is 9:30mayor 10:15 highschool tour 11:00 lunch in Black Cat 12:30 tour of Bowditch 12:50bus to Morse Grave. We are going to need some volunteers to drive from the cemetary back to the Hawthorn Hotel because the bus needs to be back by 1:30. They will then have free time until the party at 6:30.

Sunday luncheon will be from 12:30 till 2:30 so they can leave on a 3:00 bus.