

Salem Ota Cultural Exchange | MINUTES

February 24, 2020 / 7 pm | 98 Washington Street City of Salem Offices

Attendees

Chris Granniss

Kathleen Salas

Constance Arlander

Ellen Soares

Abigail Clark

Hugh Stewart

Joe Salermo

Yoko Stewart

Deb Jackson

Kirky DeLong

Merritt Ringer

Agenda topics

- **January Minutes approved by quorum.**
- **Re/Election of Officers**

Votes were taken & unanimous to continue another year of service for the following Officers: Chris & Denise Granniss co-presidents; Connie Arlander, VP; Ellen Soares, Treasurer; Abigail Clark is student representative (until she leaves for college); and Kathleen Salas as Clerk. Chris & Denise intend to make this their last year as co-presidents, and we will need to find a new student representative beginning next Fall.

- **New members and intent to host.** We are hoping to solicit more intentions online as people express interest.
- **Host Family Recruitment & Activities for July Student Visit**

We are working on bringing in a few new families and pleased to have many commitments already; please continue to do the same within any Salem/Marblehead/Beverly communities you are involved. (We again have a few Marblehead families hosting a student). **Dates are Sunday July 26 to Monday August 3.** We hope to hear from all former families as Spring approaches! Please let us know your ability to host again when you can.

We are also gathering commitments for the usual activities and transportation, including Canobie Lake on Wed. We don't yet have a family hosting the annual Friday night potluck dinner; if this interests you let us know!

- **Social Media & other Community Outreach**

Please follow and like our **Ota Facebook & Instagram** pages, which are periodically updated with videos and photos to entice community members. Chris is generating posts a few times per month, hoping to keep them relevant and fresh as he is able. If you can think of any stories

and/or brief memories or stories to contribute, either post it on FB or forward it to Chris to do so. The more sharing the better.

We also plan to have an Ota presence at 1 or 2 of the **Salem Film Festival** films-from Japan (1 baseball-related and 1 about the Tsunami), including hold an info table with photo albums and Ota info postcards to distribute. We hope it will help generate hosts and/or members, and we also hope you consider coming to attend some films!

- **2020 Scholarship Application**

To generate thorough applications, we are requesting 500-750 word essays. We do not yet have any applicants. A reminder email will be sent shortly, and information is posted on the website front and center. All applications will be read “blind” and must be submitted before May 8 (preferably in April to allow sufficient time).

- **Adult Japanese Adult Visit to Salem**

Autumn dates are not confirmed but as always this will hopefully be between Halloween & Thanksgiving (November 14 being ideal). Our visitors will spend a few nights in a local hotel, and likely stay 1-2 nights with host families.

Next Meeting: Monday March 30, 7 to 8 pm