



Christopher Granniss <chrisgranniss@gmail.com>

Salem-Ota May Meeting Minutes (May 24, 2021 at 7pm)

Christopher Granniss <chris@granniss.com>
To: members@salemotace.org

Tue, May 25, 2021 at 6:54 PM

Salem-Ota Cultural Exchange Minutes
May 24, 2021 Zoom call Call to Order: 7pm
Next meeting: Monday, June 28 at 7pm

In attendance: , Connie Arlander, Ben Arlander, Peter Dolan, Erin Dolan, Kira Dolan, Kyla Dolan, Elizabeth Emory, Denise Granniss, Chris Granniss, Deb Jackson, Kimberley Kozak, Pam Myrie, Ellen Soares, Kathleen Salas, Marlene Warner
And special guests Atsuko Ebisawa and Ikuyo Suzuki, the President of the Ota-Salem club, zooming in from Japan.

Correction to last month's minutes: It is with regret that we neglected to give appropriate credit to Merritt Ringer who has made- by hand! - 50 (and counting) of the Salem tapestries we are presenting to Ota as gifts recognizing the 30th anniversary of our sister city relationship.

Special election of Co-Presidents: Kathleen Salas and Marlene Warner were elected as co-Presidents for 2021-2022 by unanimous vote. Chris and Denise Granniss are stepping down after 4 ½ years as their kids are no longer young enough to be in the program.

The office of secretary, formerly filled by Kathleen Salas, is currently vacant.

Salem-Ota Scholarship winner: Deya Arnold was the 2021 winner of the \$500 scholarship. Her excellent essay was read to the assembled. We thank the judges, Betty Burke, Ellen Soares, and Kathleen Salas for giving us their time and talent. There were a total of four entries, all very strong, including (in no particular order): Rory McKay, Avery Ross and Griffin Rodenheiser. Salem High will be announcing her award at their graduation exercises and the announcement with her essay is on our website.

Sister Cities International Network asked us for contact information for our program to be included in their national database. Chris Granniss and Kathleen Salas agreed to be the contact persons.

30th anniversary event, November 13 at the PEM.

Discussion of times and scheduling. Deb has a contract with Odaiko New England. She is changing the times she had in as placeholders. We plan on the event starting at 1:15pm with a short drumming "attention getter" followed by a formal ceremony with dignitaries recognizing the 30- year relationship. The drummers will then do their full 20-minute performance. At that time we imagine a Part II which will include Midori giving a lecture on Morse (appropriately in the Morse auditorium), pop-up tours in the Japanese Art Collection, and an activity for the kids.

Other ideas were

- a physical timeline display, perhaps interactive, with host families and trip participants being able to add their dates. A visual of this size would need to be cleared by the PEM.
- having alumni pick out artifacts in the Japanese collection that they could talk about in relation to their experiences.

- looping videos from Japan and/or picture slideshows
- having the mayor select one of the gifts at city hall to display
- having the Ota and Salm city flags displayed in the Atrium as backdrop for the ceremony (Peter has an Ota flag with stand.)
- Info cards for the tables again
- Peter is also looking in his basement for panels that have been used before
- Perhaps closing with the bon community dance we normally do with the exchange students (with a tape as we won't have the drummers for the end) and a sanbon (sp?) led by Peter.

Invitations

Formal invitations to the dignitaries. Peter and Erin are working on the guest list and Chris can help with design and layout. This is a priority as "VIP" schedules fill quickly.

Invitations to host families, club members, other guests and publicity will be done with Evite and email and TBD. This is a public event. It was noted that Japan will not be sending a contingent as of right now.

New Business

- In August, Peter will begin recruiting for the 2022 student trip (Trips are back!!!) He will be notifying present host families with HS kids. We will also be sending out an email blast to the whole mailing list. Other publicity TBD. Peter and Midori are working on this.
- Peter is compiling a video for the 30th anniversary to send to Japan just like we did for the global pandemic. Plans are to have it ready for November.
- In politics, the tradition has been for the Ota mayor to send a good-luck message to the mayor running for re-election (and vice-versa) so Peter will be handling that too!

Meeting adjourned at 7:50