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the newsletter of *The Manjiro Society for International Exchange, Inc.*

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*McLean and Chiba Orchestra Members with Mrs. Kato at the Japanese Embassy*

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Japanese Names are presented western style, family name last, with the exception of historical figures and bibliographic entities.

## Walle's Voice

The Manjiro Society for International Exchange, Inc is a not-for-profit educational and cultural exchange organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Virginia. The Society is approved under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and contributions to the Society are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

The United States Manjiro Society was launched in 1993 to serve as the counterpart and partner of the similarly-named Japanese organization founded in 1991 in response to the recommendation of the government-to-government Tokyo declaration that more grassroots exchanges between Americans and Japanese were needed. The Society works to supplement the work of numerous "Japan-America" societies located throughout the US. The Manjiro Society is a membership organization seeking to interest those who: (A) have a serious, but perhaps not professional, interest in Japan; (B) wish to visit Japan and meet Japanese in the US; (C) may prefer to concentrate their involvement in annual sessions of no more than ten days, keeping in touch outside the "Summits" through Society publications and electronic communications; and (D) wish to support the Society's service as a coordinating point for special exchange programs that grow out of developing member interests.

Members: We welcome articles and pictures for the newsletter. Please send material to: Manjiro Society, 11227 South Shore Road, Reston, Virginia, 20190-4400. Email: <manjiro@manjiro.org>

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150 years ago the official Japan–America relationship started with the signing of the Kanagawa Treaty. Manjiro and Captain Whitfield had a head start by 13 years when the 14 year–old shipwrecked fisherboy came to live with the Whitfields in Fairhaven, Massachusetts.

The Manjiro Society has its own anniversaries: Taeko Floyd incorporated the Manjiro Society for International Exchange, Inc. Virginia in 1993 and this Fall the Manjiro Society will be 11 years old. The 14th Japan–America Grassroots Summit was held in Boston in July. Taeko Floyd and myself have been involved in most of the Summits since the First Summit in Tokyo in the Fall of 1991. The Society has been involved in many other grassroots events.

This year the Manjiro Society was responsible for finding homestay families for 18 participants in the Boston Summit who traveled to the DC area after the Summit. In other years the Society recruited participants to attend the Summits in Japan.

Mark your calendar, the 15th Summit will be in Nagoya in June 2005.

Our Sixth annual fundraiser in May 2004 was fun and successful, making it possible to continue to support real grassroots exchanges such as the Fifth McLean /Chiba Youth Orchestra joint concert held in March 2004. We are already working on the Sixth exchange concert which will be held in Spring 2005 in Chiba.

The 4th Summer Camp for American and Japanese youngsters was held in July 2004. This time five American students spent two weeks at a place called *Canadian Farm* in the Nagano Mountains in Japan along with their Japanese peers.

It is a good feeling to know that the Manjiro Society has so much support from members and friends that there will be many more anniversaries for Manjiro–supported events, and we look forward to new exchanges to develop during the upcoming years.

Considering that the Manjiro Society is run solely by volunteers, this is indeed a Grassroots society with a good track record of helping to foster Japan–American relations. My heartfelt THANK YOU goes to all our volunteers, members, supporters and especially the Manjiro Board.

Walle Hargreaves  
President

*Fundraiser Pinata*



## Fifth Chiba /McLean Youth Orchestra Exchange

It finally happened, 15 members from the Chiba Youth Orchestra (CYO) arrived at Dulles airport in March 2004 for the fifth exchange between the McLean Youth Orchestra (MYO) and CYO. The trip was originally planned for 2003 but the threat of the Iraq War was hanging over everybody's head and the group from Japan just did not feel comfortable traveling during that time.

MYO parents, especially the Cranmers went into full gear to find host families, organize trips, a welcome dinner (Sue Newman), transport, drivers and events (an evening of bowling, a farewell pot luck dinner at the spacious home of the Gottliebs, a rehearsal with the String section of the Air Force Band, a visit to Deb Volker's fire station, and a visit to Mount Vernon). Many hosts acted as luggage transporters and helped make sure that all guests arrived at the different locations. Jim Bernhardt gets a special star for driving.

Right after their arrival the group visited the new Air and Space Museum near Dulles Airport. Mr Yamashita, a Manjiro member, helped to explain the exhibits in Japanese. The sightseeing day in DC was made easier by volunteer Yosuke Kimura, a Japanese graduate student studying in Washington, who explained all the different sights in Japanese.

That evening the guests met their host families (Valerie Cranmer's fun name tags helped to introduce everybody), the first rehearsal came after dinner, and then the first experience of homestay with 13 MYO families started.

Saturday and Sunday were filled with rehearsal, music, family activities and the concert. It is always such a pleasure to see the students playing such fine music together, and having them look so distinguished in their concert clothes adds to the pleasure. Mrs Mariko Hirota (one of the mothers from Chiba, a trained soprano and one of the chaperones) helped out at the last minute and sang *Sakura* and *Kojo no Tsuki*, since the young American soloist had lost her voice.

A trip to the country with a tour of the Endless Caverns and a wonderful early dinner at Walt and Taeko's Pembroke Springs Retreat including watching the many animals and enjoying a Japanese bath was made possible with the help of Mr Fujiyama of Idea Travel.

For many of our hosts and guests the Cherry Blossom Festival Reception at the Residence of the Japanese Ambassador and Mrs Kato was one of the highlights of the week. The young musicians performed two short pieces for the invited guests celebrating 150 years of Japan-American relations in connection with the Cherry Blossom Festival. Mr Ohyama from the Embassy was a tremendous help in making this wonderful evening possible.

(Continued on Page 4)

### The Manjiro Society for International Exchange

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The Society maintains a website at  
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A trip to Baltimore with its Aquarium and the Inner Harbor, the farewell reception, more sightseeing and some shopping (never enough according to the girls), concert at the Kennedy Center and a rare chance to listen in on a master class given by members of the National Symphony for strings and wind instruments (Tina Anderson, MYO's conductor arranged this special event) filled the rest of the days. Being able to spend six days with the homestay family gave everybody a chance to feel comfortable and get to know each other. It was quite hard for hosts and guests to say, "Good bye."

To all the wonderful host families and friends who helped to make this exchange possible, many many thanks and also a great Thank You to the Sister Orchestra members for coming. Mrs Sakuma, the chaperone of the group made the lives of hosts and guests much easier with her graceful way of handling all the little problems and her perfect English. MYO students and parents are already looking forward to their trip to Chiba, Japan in March 2005 and visiting the friends of their Sister Orchestra.

## **Comments from Chiba Youth Orchestra and Mclean Youth Orchestra Participants Regarding Their Exchange Experiences.**

### **What would you have liked to be different?**

- 。おみやげの時間をもっと長くしてほしい。
- 。ホームステイの'日にちをもっと長くしてほしい。
- 。子供の多い家が良い。
- 。春休み全部使っても良いから、その分アメリカでホームステイしたい。

*More shopping, longer homestay . A host family with many children is more fun. I could have spent all spring vacation in America*  
Mari Otsuka

### **About the activities during their stay:**

色々な場所に行けてよかったです。  
ただ滞在時間が短い時もあったと思いました。  
*It was fun to visit so many different places. I wish our stay was longer.*  
Akira Sakuma

### **About the difficulty to communicate with the host family:**

じたこともあれば通じなかったこともあった。  
ただ大事な問題で通じなくて助けてもらったこともあったので自分自身で解決できるようになりたい。  
*Sometimes I could manage to communicate with the family members and staffs and sometimes I could not.*  
*In some questions I had to ask help from other people. I want to improve my communication skill.*  
Daiki Muto

During a short speech at the concert Daiki also proclaimed, "I love Virginia!!!"  
(It was his second visit with the MYO orchestra.)

### **Comments from MYO members:**

The Kilgores: *We had a wonderful time just exchanging experiences in our own cultures. We laughed a lot. Our dog was a great hit.*

The Roberts: *Communicating through music was fantastic.*

The Gottliebs: *It was good for MYO and CYO members to get together in a small group. This way we got to know the parents and kids better. The reception at the Japanese Embassy was a real highlight of the exchange.*

## MYO/CYO Orchestra Exchange - A Host's View

I'm sure the 2004 Chiba exchange generated a 1001 stories. Here are a couple of ours. Jasmine, our 13-year-old violinist, was excited about being able to play with the MYO especially because of the exchange program with the CYO. When we met Yuka, a 13-year-old CYO violinist, at the welcome dinner Jasmine was delighted to discover that she and Yuka were a match trait for trait. Both girls like ramen, both girls like *Anime* (Jasmine a little more); both girls like American Jazz (Yuka a little more). Jasmine speaks a little Japanese. Yuka speaks a little English. Neither girl likes hamburgers.

The Exchange program was a week of surprises for us. Our first came at the welcome supper, when we discovered that Yuka was a little taller than Jasmine. We had expected the opposite. Our second surprise came when we offered to let Yuka call home to tell her parents she had arrived safely. She said she had already talked to her dad on her cell phone. (My cell doesn't even work in West Virginia.) Our third surprise came with a bit of a story. Saturday evening I tried speaking English 101 to see if special English might not make our early days together a little easier. "Do you have a sister or a brother," I asked. "Yes," Yuka answered, "I have a sister." "How old is she?" "She's 11 years old." "Does she play an instrument?" "Yes, she plays the flute." "Does she play in the orchestra?" "Yes, she does." We were all smiling, because we had found a common language and having a real conversation. At the concert, my wife Beth and I discovered Rie, her sister, in the list of Chiba participants! I had forgotten to ask if her sister had come to America with the group.

A special moment came for Beth and me on Sunday afternoon when the girls agreed to play their violins together. After the tiniest little bit of coaxing, Jasmine got out her books of violin duets and the girls sight read through several pieces. We discovered that they were an almost perfect musical match. Their tone and playing style made for an afternoon of beautiful music and deep satisfaction. Yuka and Jasmine completed their miniconcert by playing the first movement of the Mozart Third Violin Concerto as a duet. We are so pleased that music shaped communication in a way that brought two distant worlds a little closer. We are so pleased that the CYO-MYO Exchange program brought Yuka into our family for a week. We are delighted that Yuka and Jasmine had found a way to get together through a little bit of English, a little bit of Japanese, and some pretty good violin playing.

Jim Bernhardt



*New friends looking forward to 2005*



*Everyone wants to see the White House*

## Sixth Annual Fundraiser

This year's fundraiser had a special goal: provide support for American kids to attend two weeks of summer camp in Japan.

We had a wonderful response at our May fundraiser, even the weather cooperated — the rain held off until the last guests were on their way home. As usual we had hamburgers and hot dogs, Walt Floyd's smoked venison, salads, baked beans, pasta salad and lots of desserts (Many thanks for all the contributors, but especially to Vicki Thompson, Michi Joseff, and Judy Arden). The Coots family again did a wonderful job grilling and serving and helping wherever necessary. But the highlights of this year's feast were Yaki Soba and many different Sushi all made cheerfully by the Shenandoah Japanese Ladies ( Atsuko, Miwako, Miyuki, and Taeko)

We had so many raffle prizes contributed that every ticket was a winner.

The Silent Auction with its great bargains was extremely popular. Sam Jett, our energizing auctioneer, managed to get top price for many items. Vicki Thompson's quilt was a hot item, so were several pottery pieces by Mizue Crosswell, a photograph by Grace Taylor, and fly fishing lessons by Atsuko Asada. Many thanks for all the people who donated items for this good cause among them ANA, Tachibana, Reston Lloyd, Pembroke Springs Retreat, and Springfield Linguistics Project.

The kids ran around blowing soap bubbles, threw a huge frisbee, and finally with Winston Floyd as the Piñata "meister," successfully demolished the Frog Piñata with the help of some big kids. Three members of the McLean Youth Orchestra gave the day a special note with their music: Valerie Cranmer, Robert Klugerman, Jasmine Bernhardt and also assistant director of the McLean Youth Orchestra, Deb Volker. We thank them and their parents for helping the Manjiro Society to make this a special day.

Speaking of Thank You : naturally a big, big THANK YOU goes to Taeko and Walt who work long before the fundraiser day to get ready: mowing the grass, cleaning, putting out tarps just in case it rains, bringing spring water, carting tables and chairs to the main house, providing table clothes, bowls, extra food, getting the Onsen ready, and so much more. Everything is done with a cheerful smile making everybody welcome.

Every year we also have steady help from Carmela and Bill Harris, Barbara and Phil Pfeiffer, Akiko and Yoshi Yamashita, Chris Zabawa and Lina Hsieh, and Hardy and Walle Hargreaves who take care of decorating . So many people help; just coming all the way to the country and supporting the Manjiro Cause deserves a heartfelt THANK YOU to everybody.

The Manjiro Board appreciates the vote of confidence you gave all nine members by voting everybody in again for an other two-year term: Taeko Floyd, Yuichiro Fujiyama, Hardy Hargreaves (newsletter), Walle Hargreaves (President), Hiroko Imamura ( legal adviser), Michi Joseff (Treasurer), Barbara Nesbitt, Yori Okuda and Chris Zabawa.

This year's fundraiser was the best ever. The Manjiro Society had over \$ 2000.00 profit this year thanks to everybody's generosity.

*Fundraiser Fun*



## ***Boston Summit and Visit to DC***

Over 150 Japanese guests were in Boston for this year's 14th Grassroots Summit. One of the local sessions was held in Fairhaven, Massachusetts where Manjiro lived with Captain Whitfield after his rescue 160 years ago. Descendants of both families will be there and give special meaning to this town and its homestay hosts and guests. Also fitting is the location of the closing ceremony : the exciting New Bedford Whaling Museum.

Eighteen Japanese participants came to the DC area and toured Washington and its surroundings with their homestay families. One group went to the Virginia Beach area for homestay after a short tour of Washington. Eleven homestay families offered their hospitality to the visitors and to repay the kindness so many Summit participants have experienced during their stays in Japan. The three days went by much too fast but gave everyone a chance to continue a friendship or create a new one. More about our host families and guests' adventures in the next issue.

## ***Summer Camp in Japan***

Two lucky kids traveled to the Canadian Farm Summer Camp in the Nagano mountains. Atsuko Asada, an experienced translator and interpreter, accompanied them to help with adjusting, translating and before returning to Washington, visiting Tokyo.

Three students from Walt Whittman High school joined them at the Camp at the end of their own Japan trip. We look forward to recounting their memories of their days at the camp and their new found friends in the next issue of our Newsletter.

Special thanks to Mr Hasagawa of the Canadian Farm Summer Camp and the generous supporters of the Manjiro Society for making this Summer Camp possible. We hope that next year more children can take advantage of this special ecologically oriented camp.

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***Future Events:*** November 2004 trip to Fairhaven and New Bedford. Please let the Manjiro Society know if you are interested.

March 2005 MYO /CYO 6th Exchange Concert in Chiba

June 22- 28, 2005 15th Japan–America Grassroots Summit, Nagoya  
( the World Exposition in Aichi takes place during that time)  
Optional tours will be offered after the Summit.

***Notes:*** *Drifting Towards the Southeast.* Records Manjiro's experience during his time away from Japan, translated into English, is available through the Manjiro Society ( \$ 18. 00 for Manjiro members \$ 20.00 for non members/ plus shipping).

**Web sites:** [www.manjiro.com](http://www.manjiro.com); [www.manjirosummit.com](http://www.manjirosummit.com); [www.springfieldlp.com](http://www.springfieldlp.com);  
[www.amazingjapan.info](http://www.amazingjapan.info); [www.japantravelbooks.com](http://www.japantravelbooks.com)

The Japan Information and Culture Center/JICC on 1155 21st Street, NW, DC has different exhibits every month (202 239 6900).

New Bedford Whaling Museum: "Pacific Encounters," a special exhibit about Whalers, Manjiro, and the Opening of Japan.

Nikki Katsutani, a High School student in Hawaii, received the first Place Award at the State History Day competition with her study of "Manjiro." Congratulations Nikki. The Manjiro Society supported her project with brochures and contacts.

The Manjiro Society for International Exchange, Inc  
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**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

I (we) wish to join the Manjiro Society for International Exchange, Inc., a not-for-profit educational and cultural exchange membership organization incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia\* in the following category:

- Individual (\$40/year)                      o Family (\$60/year)
- o Supporter (Includes contributor's family — \$250/year)
- o Corporate/Institution (Contribution by discussion with the Executive Director)
- o Student (\$20/year)

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