



# Springfield Sister Cities Association

## Upcoming

### September

**9-11** Japanese Fall Festival

### October

**11-13** Visit by Mayor Igarashi and Isesaki City and School officials

**15** Botanical Center 1-year Anniversary Celebration with Tlaquepaque musicians

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Japanese Fall Festival



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## Springfield Supports Japan in Wake of Historic Devastation

By Cindy Jobe

Maybe it's one of those moments in which you will always remember what you were doing when you first heard the news or saw video images on T.V., much like the Challenger exploding, but the image of the tsunami sweeping over everything in its path was that powerful.

The fundraising effort which started out as simply passing the hat at the SSCA Annual Meeting, turned out to be a monumental success. So many folks and organizations got involved. It started with the Community Foundation of the Ozarks and Nakatos Japanese Restaurant. Wow,

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A chef at Nakato prepares a bowl of origami made from money donated to the Japanese relief efforts.



Photo: Robert Studio

## Irish Sister City Being Sought, Researched

By Cindy Jobe

So you like sushi? And, you also occasionally have a craving for fajitas and refried beans. How would you like to add some corned beef and cabbage and maybe green beer to that mix?

For several years, a group of us have had an intense interest in adding a new relationship to our already very successful ties to Isesaki and Tlaquepaque. What do you think about having an Irish Sister City?

Sound like fun? We are going to give that a run and see how it pans out.

A search team has been given the go-ahead by



the board to identify an Irish city that has similar or parallel interests to Springfield. If we can successfully identify, qualify and coordinate an Irish sister city to add to the wonderful duo we currently have, it would add an entirely new and exciting dimension to our Springfield Sister City organization.

Does that appeal to you? If so, hang on. We have started the process. It will take a while, as it did to find

Isasaki and Tlaquepaque. But don't be surprised if you find a Leprechaun in your back yard at some point in the future!

# Rotary Connections Add Service Element to Sister Cities Partnership

By Brad Bodenhausen

The Springfield – Tlaquepaque Sister City connection includes partnerships between the Rotary Clubs of the two cities that bring a community service aspect to the Sister Cities program.

The Rotary Club of Springfield Southeast and Club Rotario Tlaquepaque El Refugio began this connection in 2004 by becoming “Twin Clubs” in Rotary ser-

vice. Since then, the Rotary Club of Springfield (Downtown) and Club Rotario San Pedro Tlaquepaque also have signed an agreement to work together on future Rotary projects.

Through the years, Southeast Rotary and El Refugio Rotary have completed several service projects together, including facility improve-

ments at the Las Huertas and San Pedrito children’s centers. Most recently, Southeast Rotary and the Bixler Corporation in Springfield have contributed 12 laptop computers for Escuela Rotario, an elementary school supported by the Tlaquepaque Rotary Clubs.

Plans are now being discussed for the next phase of Rotary service projects, which will focus on parks and playground equipment



Parks’ Jodie Adams, Chantal Drennen and Springfield Mayor Pro Tem Bob Stephens visit a park in Tlaquepaque to lay the ground work for improvements to the site.

at several children’s centers in Tlaquepaque.

For more information about Rotary’s service efforts in Tlaquepaque, please contact Brad Bodenhausen at 862-5567 or [brad@springfieldchamber.com](mailto:brad@springfieldchamber.com).



Brad Bodenhausen visits a school in Tlaquepaque after Rotary Club of Springfield Southeast and Bixler Corporation donated laptop computers.

## 2011 Kite Festival - Cold, But Kites Fly High Again



Above: Volunteers hard at work, folding origami  
Right: Hands-on activities highlighted the warmer inside tent at the event

It seems like weather rarely cooperates with our annual Kite Festival, but we always manage to have a successful event. Children played and kites still flew. The event opens the season for the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park each year. Thanks to all volunteers who made this event happen!



Photo: Rupert Studio

# Progress Happening in Mexico, Plans Underway for Upcoming Projects

## My First Visit to Tlaquepaque

By Chantal Drennen

Last March, I had the privilege to travel to Tlaquepaque, Mexico on the citizens' tour. I was unsure of what to expect, but I knew I was well-accompanied. I was amazed by the response of our visit by our fellow sister city. We had a professional mariachi band waiting for us at the hotel, two private one-on-one tours with internationally renowned local artists at their workshops (Sergio Bustamante and Rodo Padilla), a great visit to the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Park Board and local city officials, and a private tour of the newly-constructed Pan American facilities. We even had time to squeeze in a VIP Enrique Iglesias concert, which had been sold out for weeks!

There are even more experiences that I would love to mention and I will cherish and remember them forever. Traveling with the Sister Cities Association gave me an experience that was priceless; there is no travel package that compares. I was able to see things as a local, with locals, and not as a tourist. This helped me better appreciate their culture and community.

Without the Springfield Sister Cities Association relationship, I would not have been able to meet, see or appreciate Tlaquepaque the way I did. If there is one thing that I really admire about this organization, it's the long-lasting relationship that has been created and has continued throughout the years. I was a witness to the true sense of peace through people with Sister Cities and the bond that ties them together.



While looking at a local stadium that was under construction for the Pan American games, the group caught up with a group of children learning rugby.

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Photo: Rubert Studio

A highlight of any trip to Tlaquepaque is always visiting with our good friend and local musician and ceramist Paco Padilla. Paco also is a local historian with great stories to tell each visit.



Tlaquepaque Mayor Miguel Castro Reynoso presents Springfield Mayor Pro Tem Bob Stephens with a gift to bring back to City Hall.



For information on our next Citizen Trip to Tlaquepaque, Mexico, call 417-864-1341 or email [cjobe@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:cjobe@springfieldmo.gov)

# ArtsFiesta! A Success; Mariachi Drive Midwest

By Andy Drennen

ArtsFiesta! was another tremendous success this year! The crowd was plentiful, the performers wonderful, and the evening absolutely beautiful. Dressed to impress, all of the performers delivered an unforgettable event. Their energy swept through the crowd, inspiring some to sing along, some to dance and others to take in the performances in their own way. For a few short hours, everyone was united in true Hispanic culture. So much so, that Founders Park is now called Founders Parque. Just kidding.

Dressed in green and white traditional Mexican Mariachi attire, the eight-piece mariachi band took the stage in front of hundreds of people and they did not disappoint. From the violin players, to the accordion, to the gitarrón, to the trumpets, to the sweet sounds of the classical guitar, all instruments came together in a magical way. The

**ArtsFiesta! continued on page 6** ➔



Mariachi Viva Xalisco delighted the crowds at this year's ArtsFiesta! event at Founder's Park in downtown Springfield. Authentic Mexican music filled the air, delighting hundreds during the Artsfest and Cinco de Mayo weekend of events.

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talk about support! Nakatos kicked it off with a huge night of fundraising that netted approximately \$29,000! Then the CFO came on board with a \$1,500 donation and the offer to accept the donations and send return thank you letters and tax receipts.

SSCA would like to give our sincere appreciation to each of you who gave individually or through local organizations. Hats off to Summit Preparatory School, Sunrise Rotary, Branson Jr. & Sr. High Schools, Glendale High School Global Studies, Kickapoo High School Japanese Club, Holland Elementary

School, Missouri State University students, M-Dock Band, Queen City Cats, and Lijla – all of you came together to raise more than \$54,000 to send directly to Japan.

I was lucky enough to deliver the final portion of these funds direct to Mayor Igarashi. He and his staff were so in awe of our efforts. It was very heart-warming to witness and be a part of. I wish each of you could've participated in the ceremony.

An additional note: while I was visiting my friends in Isesaki, the devastating tornado hit Joplin. Wow. The phone at my host family's house rang off the hook as people were trying to let me know about it. The concern, prayers, and good thoughts started pouring in with every conversation I had. Sometimes it is crazy things that bring us together. In this case, tremendous, destructive natural events. But whatever the reason, SSCA is grateful to be part of making the world a better place.

Thank you for your support!



M-Dock plays C-Street's Lindberg's at a fundraising event for Japan relief efforts.



Parks' Cindy Jobe presents a ceremonial check for \$54,002 to Mayor Igarashi in Isesaki in late May. Proceeds were raised through Springfield fundraising efforts.

# A Message From SSCA President Price



Friends and Connections – these are two key words that I think perfectly describe our Sister City relationships. These words have come to mind this spring as we learned about the terrible tragedy in Japan, and worked through some hiccups in our relationship with Tlaquepaque. When we heard of the events in Japan, SSCA knew we had to help. As an organization, our financial resources were limited, but our desire to help was unbounded.

Working with our friends and connections here – with Community Foundation of the Ozarks, the Nakato family, area schools and businesses, and friends of SSCA, over \$52,000 was raised in less than a month to send to our friends in Isesaki. We understand they are using the funds to assist people displaced by the tsunami and nuclear evacuation. Just as importantly, our friends know we are with them in this time of troubles, and that our bonds are strong.

Less dramatic, but equally indicative of the Sister Cities spirit, we called upon friends and connections to bring the Mariachi Viva Xal-

isco to Springfield and make ArtsFiesta! 2011 a big success. In late April, we learned that due to unfortunate events in Tlaquepaque, the city would be unable to send a mariachi band to us this year. But friends stepped in. Our good friend in Tlaquepaque, Jesus Cervantes, immediately agreed to work directly with SSCA to bring his band to Springfield despite short notice and very difficult travel arrangements. SSCA's great friends, Araceli and Mike Hanks, Cindy Jobe and Brad Bodenhausen gave their time to drive to Chicago to pick up and return the band to O'Hare Airport, and to Kansas City so the band could perform at the mariachi festival there. What could have been a disappointment became a wonderful week of music and friendship thanks to good friends and connections.

This spirit of goodwill and fellowship keeps us all tied to SSCA. And it seems the more involved you are, the more satisfaction you receive. Thanks again to all our friends who made these successes possible, and to those who haven't yet become active in SSCA, get involved! You will always receive more than you give.

*John E. Price*

**Sept. 9-11 - 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Japanese Fall Festival (see poster insert)**

**Volunteers needed! Please email [cjobe@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:cjobe@springfieldmo.gov) or call 864-1341 to sign up!**

**Oct. 11-13 - Visit by Mayor Igarashi and Isesaki City and School officials.**

**Oct. 15 - 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Celebration at Botanical Center with performances, amazing musicians from our Tlaquepaque, Paco Padilla and his band, along with Luna Sureste.**

(More details soon)



*Keep up with*  
**SSCA Events and Activities**  
[PeaceThroughPeople.org](http://PeaceThroughPeople.org)

## WE NEED YOU!

**SSCA Board of Directors**  
meetings are held at 5:15 p.m., the second Tuesday of each month at Busch Municipal Building, 840 Boonville Ave.

**Isesaki Committee**  
meets at 5:30 p.m., the second Monday of each month, locations vary.

**Membership Committee**  
meets at 4 p.m., the third Monday of each month, locations vary.

**Tlaquepaque Committee**  
meets at 5:30 p.m., the third Wednesday of each month, locations vary.

\*Dates subject to change - Call Cindy at 864-1341 for details if you are interested in serving.

## → ArtsFiesta! from page 4

harmonious vocals of the gentlemen fit the music faultlessly. There is no doubt that the Mariachi group was made up of true professionals.

The dancers from Grupo Latinoamericano and Grupo Libertad were outstanding. Each group performed traditional dances from different parts of Mexico and even wore outfits to match. The Mariachi band played several songs with the dance groups, which made each performance an authentic delight.

The children were entertained by the Loteria, face painting, bounce house, and Gelato Mio balloons. The performers were the highlight of the evening; however, the Fiesta wouldn't have been a Fiesta without a taco or burrito for dinner. In all, the evening was perfect!



**Local children enjoying ArtsFiesta!**

Hundreds of people from around the area made downtown Springfield their destination for ArtsFiesta!. Of course, none of it would have happened without the dedicated volunteers and sponsors who helped put the event together. Thank you everyone for your support and believing in peace through people. We are all looking forward to the next adventure with our extraordinary relationship and friends in Tlaquepaque, Mexico.

### **La Visita (The Visit)**

The Mariachi band touched down in Chicago from Guadalajara and continued its journey to Springfield by car. The eight band members were happily hosted by four local families. The hosting experience allowed each person the opportunity to learn about another



**Dancers from Grupo Latinoamericano provide color and energy to the evening's events.**



### **Springfield, Missouri**

## **2011 SSCA Board of Directors**

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