

# ITAZUKE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

**NOVEMBER 2019**

Editor: Teresa Green, 405 Hill St, Capitola CA 95010-3604  
Phone 408-203-2234; email [teresajgreen@me.com](mailto:teresajgreen@me.com)

Sorry it has been so long since the last newsletter – February! Newly elected members of the Board have been busy taking over their new roles; transferring bank authorizations and updating the IAA database. And until this past month, there was no news to share about our next reunion so it did not seem cost-effective to put out a newsletter. But that has all changed and we have news to share.

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

### **2020 IAA Reunion**

The 2020 Itazuke Alumni Association biennial meeting and reunion will be held on October 20 through 23, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Due to the lack of a person in the area, the selection of a venue has been challenging. Board members, Jan Arbuckle Bloomer and Mary Anderson Baker, new Reunion Committee member, Melanie Dell Young, and I met in Vegas

to get the reunion started. After four days of visiting various hotels we settled on The Orleans Hotel and Casino which was moderately priced and more accommodating than others. We liked Mandalay Bay and South Point but they would have cost almost twice as much as the Orleans not to mention the Orleans gets a 4.3 out of 5 overall rating.



We decided to hold the reunion during the week, Monday through Thursday, to minimize the cost. Airfare should be cheaper also.

Registration Fees will be \$165 per person. Registration fees will increase to \$180 on July 1, 2020, and to \$195 on October 1, 2020. **There will be no refunds after September 17, 2020, due to our commitments with the hotel.**

Room rates will be \$89 per night, Sunday through Thursday. Friday and Saturday rates will be \$139. These prices include taxes and resort fees. You will be able to stay for three days on either end of the reunion (October 17 through 25, 2020) at these rates.

Hotel reservations may be made directly with designated people at the hotel by phone at **800-675-3267**, or online at [www.orleanscasino.com/groups](http://www.orleanscasino.com/groups). Just give them our assigned Reservation ID: AIA0C10. Hotel hours of operations are Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm; Saturday and Sunday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Pacific Standard time. First night's room and tax will be required at the time of booking. The following methods of payment may be used for deposit: company check, American Express; Diners Club; MasterCard; Discover; VISA; JCB; Money Order. The hotel accepts company/personal checks for payment of deposits only and must be received a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to arrival date.

**The cut-off date for room reservations will be September 17, 2020.** We have a goal to meet so it is important to register early and stay at the hotel if possible.

The Orleans Hotel and Casino, 44500 W Tropicana Ave, Las Vegas, Nevada 89103. Check out their website at: <https://www.orleanscasino.com/explore>

Bob Clark

For travel planning here is a rough schedule of events for this reunion.

Oct 20 - OPEN HOSPITALITY

Oct 21 - IAA meeting in the late morning, Celebration of life with DJ/snacks/ Military Color Guard

Oct 22 - Banquet w/band

Oct 23 - Breakfast (buffet) Good Bye's

We will be having another silent auction at the reunion. Many alumni love this as it provides them an opportunity to acquire things from Japan and another time in their life. For those downsizing, it is a great way to pass on some of your Japanese memorabilia while raising some money for the IAA. Questions or coordination of donations should be directed to Melanie Dell Young ('68) by email: [mellieruth@yahoo.com](mailto:mellieruth@yahoo.com)

### About The Orleans

As Bob mentioned it has a Very Good rating of 4.3 out of 5. Amenities you might find interesting include free Parking, free Wi-Fi, and a free Area

Shuttle. For those inclined, it has a Pool and Hot Tub, a Fitness Center and SPA, as well as restaurants, bars/lounges, and coffee shops. There's a movie theatre too. And it goes without saying that it has slots. You might also enjoy its Arcade/game room or Bowling Alley!

The Orleans is a short 2 miles from popular hotels and casinos on the "strip" and only 3.5 miles from McCarran International Airport.

### Viva Las Vegas!

Everyone knows the usual Things to Do in Las Vegas! There are millions of gambling casinos, and endless opportunities to see stage shows and entertainers. Hey and don't forget the Wedding Chapels. But let's face it, these are going to cost lots of money one way or the other – unless you are very lucky.

So, what are the Free Things to Do in Las Vegas? Here are some top attractions.

1. A Must-See is the Bellagio Symphony of Fountains. This show with synchronized music, water, and lights occurs every 15 minutes, and can be viewed from many places, even the sidewalk on the strip. Get there early enough to grab a good spot.
2. How about Exploding Fireballs from the Mirage Volcano? Sounds like fun!

3. The Bellagio Conservatory offers a 14,000 sq. foot garden with seasonal and holiday blooms. Located in the lobby of The Bellagio.
4. M&M World. Four stories of chocolate. M&Ms of every color and you can even get them personalized.
5. There are dozens of Elvis impersonators to entertain you. The act at Harrah's Piano Bar is noted to be the longest running one.

The list goes on. As you can see, there is more to Las Vegas than the casinos. Even non-gamblers can have some fun.

### ANOTHER ITAZUKE QUILT



We have another quilt being made for the 2020 reunion. Pam Shupe Lyden ('74) is just about done making this beautiful quilt out of all Japanese fabrics that she purchased on the internet. She just needs to put on the borders. It looks gorgeous already!

The Reunion organizers have decided that members who cannot attend the reunion might want a chance to win this quilt, so we will be accepting payments for raffle tickets prior to the reunion. The prices are yet to be determined per raffle ticket, but we will let you know in advance of the reunion. If a person who is not attending wins, they will be notified (phone, mail, email etc.) and will be required to send Jan Bloomer a check of approximately \$25 to cover the mailing costs for the quilt. Updates regarding this will be online and in the next newsletter.

## BUSINESS MATTERS

There has been a bit of confusion recently about certain roles of the IAA officers. Hope this helps!

Mary Anderson Baker is our Secretary and is in charge of the IAA Database listing. She keeps contact information on active and inactive members, dues paid, and their email addresses. She sends the newsletter to those email recipients. She also tags who has requested a hardcopy newsletter, and gives that list to the Newsletter Editor. New members, or members whose contact information has

changed should notify Mary @ Mary Anderson Baker, 3001 Pheasant Street, Cheney, WA 99004. Do not send membership checks to Mary.

Our Treasurer is Jan Arbuckle Bloomer. When you pay your dues, the check is made out to IAA, or Itazuke Alumni Association, and sent to her @ Jan Bloomer, IAA Treasurer, 215 Willow Ave, Merritt Island, FL 32953. Jan will notify Mary when membership dues have been received so the database can be updated.

Teresa Shea Green is the Newsletter Editor. She collects articles from members either directly or through Facebook and formats them into the newsletter that you get. She prints the required number of hardcopies and mails them out to those people who have requested a hardcopy newsletter. She does not maintain a separate database for this, but relies on the data from the Secretary. Her contact information is on the first page.



And at our last reunion business meeting we agreed that we would reduce the number of hardcopy newsletters we sent out by requiring members who still wanted a printed newsletter to make a



written request for that. So, you may remember, we put a form in the last newsletter for just that purpose. We are happy to say that this has been effective. About 40 members requested to continue receiving the newsletter by mail. This contrasts to the almost 400 that we have been sending out. We are heading in the right direction! This will be a great cost savings to the organization. And at the same time, many people responded by updating their current email addresses. It is always hard for us to keep up with the changes to our members addresses, so please contact Mary when you have an update.

### REMEMBRANCES

Joe Boling sent this news out. "Reading back issues of *Technology Review*, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology alumni magazine, I found tonight that Norman "Andy" Humer, IHS '58, MIT '62, died on 21 Nov 2014."

And Don Denio (Itazuke 66-68, class of '72) reports, "I have the sad news that my brother Dennis, class of '69, passed away Feb 23 in Tokyo where he had been living for the last about 40 years."

We send our sympathy out to friends and families of those remembered.

Let us also remember those who have endured much this year, with hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, blizzards and fires. It has been one memorable year!

### INTRODUCING NEW FB MEMBER



Well there has been some interesting discussion on our Facebook page. We have a new person, Michael Weddington, who has been allowed

to join the group even though he did not live at Itazuke. He certainly lived on many bases in Japan! Here is what he says about himself.

#### \*NEW ALL-JAPAN BRAT BOOK IN THE WORKS\*

Greetings everyone! My name is Michael Weddington, and I'm a Sasebo-Yokohama-Yokosuka Brat ('62-65, '69-74). I am writing the **first comprehensive book on Japan-based military brats** (history & experiences). I am really interested in hearing the stories of **Itazuke Brats**. Would you mind answering the following:

**SURVEY: What were your favorite things to do/places to hang out with friends on base or off?** (please list your era).

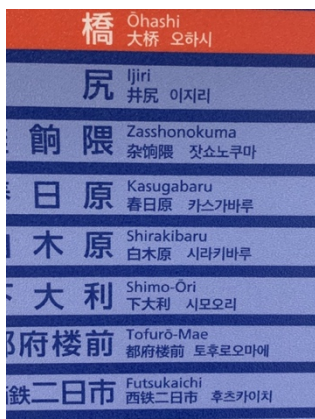


If you would like to join in on this survey, go onto our Facebook page and respond to his post. I have to tell you, there have been 70 comments in just 24 hours! We as a group love to share our stories and memories. So far many of these memories focus on the Green Wave cafeteria. Welcome Michael, and can't wait to see your book!

Speaking of Facebook, we have over 600 members now. There has been a lot of interest from what I will call the "younger generation". These are people who did not attend Itazuke High School, but attended elementary or junior high while at Itazuke. Their memories are just as vivid, and the love of their time spent at Itazuke is just as strong. We hope to see more of them join us at our reunions.

### REMAINS OF ITAZUKE

People who have visited Japan the past few years report that there are not many reminders that can be found of Itazuke. Our childhood home has been replaced with parks and homes and what not. Here are some images that Judy Cauthen Izumi took of her time there recently. These were the only reminders she could find of where we once lived.



I found this information on the internet about Itazuke airfield: **Fukuoka: FUK** formerly known as **Itazuke Air Base**, is an international and domestic airport located 1.8 mi east of Hakata Station in Hakata-ku, Fukuoka, Japan.



The airport was built in 1944 by the Imperial Japanese Army Air Force as **Mushiroda Airfield**. After the war, the United States Air Force used the airfield as **Itazuke Air Base** from 1945 to 1972. Itazuke actually comprised three installations: Itazuke AB, Itazuke (Kasuga) Administration Annex and Brady Air Base (Camp Brady).

### LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Itazuke Dependents School at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/47789233578/>. **Dana Allin Minnis ('65)** manages the group account. The Itazuke Alumni Association Information and Discussion page for more formal reunion communication is located at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/644501885681740/>.

## Itazuke Alumni Association Reunion Registration Form Las Vegas, Nevada – October 20-23, 2020

Full Registration includes Hospitality Room beginning on Tuesday evening, “Celebration of Life” Party on Wednesday evening, Banquet Dinner on Thursday evening, and Friday morning Continental Breakfast.

Itazuke attendee name \_\_\_\_\_

Name used at Itazuke \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation class year \_\_\_\_\_ Years at Itazuke from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Please include an old school photo.

Spouse or adult guest \_\_\_\_\_

Children (under 12 years) and ages \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Guests \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fees per Adult (Alum, Spouse, or Guest)**

Prior to July 01, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ persons X \$165 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

After July 01, 2020 prior to October 01, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ persons X \$180 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

After October 01, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ X \$195 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Wednesday Night Celebration and Meal ticket for additional guests (adult) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$50 each \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday evening Banquet and Meal ticket for additional guests (adult) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$80 each \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Morning Breakfast Buffet for additional guests (adult) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount for all Reunion Registration and T-shirts \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Absolutely no refunds after September 17, 2020, due to hotel commitments.

\*\*Meal tickets for children (12 and under) upon request.

\*\*\*All meals have taken most eating habits into consideration, however if you need to have special meals, please make a request.

**Photographs: Please enclose your Itazuke era photo if available.**

**Pickup at the reunion:** Order now. Please enter number desired for each size:

\_\_\_\_\_ Small \_\_\_\_\_ Medium \_\_\_\_\_ Large \_\_\_\_\_ XL @ \$20 each

\_\_\_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_\_\_ XXXL @ \$25 each

T-shirt Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you don't plan to attend the reunion but still want a T-shirt, you may order them to be mailed to you for an \$8 shipping fee for each T-shirt. Fill in the number and sizes above and complete your address information. T-shirt orders must be received prior to October 1, 2020.

**Ship to:** Name and Address \_\_\_\_\_

Questions about registration? Email Jan Bloomer at [beginningsjb@gmail.com](mailto:beginningsjb@gmail.com)

Make check payable to: IAA or Itazuke Alumni Association

Mail this form with check to: Jan Bloomer, IAA Treasurer, 215 Willow Ave, Merritt Island, FL 32953

**Itazuke Alumni Association Newsletter November 2019**

**Itazuke Alumni Association  
405 Hill St.  
Capitola, CA 95010-3604**

**Please do not forward**

**Itazuke Dependents School 1952-1971**

**Return Service Requested**

**We're from Itazuke don't you forget  
Our hearts can't forget!**

**Predecessors:  
Hakata American School 1946  
Fukuoka American School 1947-1952**

**Successor:  
Hakata High School 1971**

**Closed physically in 1972:  
"In our thoughts forever"**

**We've got the spirit and  
we've got the pep.  
We're from Itazuke  
we won't forget**

**IAA Officers for 2019 – 2020**

President ..... Robert Clark '66  
Vice President ..... David Gibson '66  
Secretary ..... Mary Anderson Baker '68  
Treasurer ..... Jan Arbuckle Bloomer '67  
Editor/Publisher ..... Teresa Shea Green '69