

IAA NEWSLETTER

ITAZUKE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2026



IAA OFFICERS 2024-2026

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Welcome to the Itazuke Alumni Association Newsletter

**This specific newsletter highlights the 2026 upcoming reunion in San Antonio Tx.
You don't want to miss this reunion!**

A Word from our IAA President, Dave Gibson

Greetings IAA members,

Cherry blossoms bloom in Japan as we plan another IAA reunion. Reality is that our attendance will continue to decline each year due to health and other issues beyond members control. Thus, I am encouraging you to take advantage of this opportunity to reunite and socialize with us.

If you are attending and would like to assist or be a committee member, please reach out to our Secretary, Barbara Galloway Berry, Hakatagal71@outlook.com.

Respectfully,

Dave Gibson

IAA President IDS Admin

VOLUNTEER IAA NEWSLETTER TEAM

- ✓ Rhonda Halmrast Lebron rhonlebron@gmail.com
- ✓ Pam Shupe Lyden plyden@ebo-consulting.com
- ✓ Mary Anderson Baker chapperb1@gmail.com

****** Please send all submittals for the next newsletter** via email addressed to one of the volunteers above. All submissions are welcome for review by the officers.

Requesting your favorite photo or 2 of past reunions – send to rhonlebron@gmail.com to be added to our June/July 2026 newsletter. Share the wonderful memories!

UPCOMING IAA REUNION INFORMATION

LOCATION: **SAN ANTONIO, TX** DATES: **DEC 1-3, 2026**

REGISTRATION

1) *Print out* attached completed registration form and *mail with check* payable to:

Itazuke Alumni Association
c/o Barbara Galloway Berry
2502 Savannah Oaks Bend
Abilene, TX 79602.

2) *Email* the completed registration form to:

Barbara Galloway Berry at hakatagal71@outlook.com
Transmit funds for registration fees and/or T-shirts via
PayPal or **Zelle** to itazukealumni@gmail.com.

Be sure to add your name to the funds transmission and/or notate payment in email.

Register by 5/31/2026 for best rate.

See below for additional registration information and pricing.

ATTENTION: The Reunion **Registration Form** was found to have an error. Please see attached corrected registration form to be used going forward.

ALUMNUS SHIRT: ____ Small ____ Medium ____ Large ____ XL ____ XXL ____ XXXL

Note: for this reunion, if you are an alumnus, you are eligible for a free tee shirt if you attended any grade level of Itazuke Dependent Schools. Please do not add \$25 for this shirt, the shirt is included in the registration fee. For all guests, the T shirt fee is required.

Please use the revised Registration form sent with this newsletter.

The website has been updated with the revised form.

HOTEL RESERVATION

Use code **ltzuke** for Hotel Reservation at link below:

<https://group.tapestrycollection.com/31cs6b>

- **HOTEL LOCATION INFORMATION:** Estancia del Norte, a Hilton Tapestry Collection hotel, 37 NE Loop 410 at McCullough, San Antonio, Texas, 78216 (210) 366-2424.
- **Individual Room Rates:** \$165.41 including tax (\$139 plus 19% tax) for either single or double occupancy. This room rate is guaranteed for one day before and one day after the reunion.
- Note: Don't forget to give them your Hilton Honors number when you register so you can earn points.

We cannot guarantee room availability or group rates for reservations made after October 30, 2026

DRAWING FOR GRAND MARSHAL STATUS FOR ALUMNI WHO REGISTER BY 5/31/2026

For all alumni registered By **May 31, 2026**, your name will be entered into a drawing for the honor of being named the "**Grand Marshal**" of the 2026 Reunion.

- ❖ The **Grand Marshal** will receive special recognition at the reunion
- ❖ Reserved seating in the Hospitality Suite
- ❖ Reserved seating at the Banquet
- ❖ First place boarding onto the bus and barge

The winner will be drawn after the **5/31/2026** deadline and announced in the June/July newsletter. All those registered at the time of this announcement are automatically entered in the drawing.

REUNION REGISTRATION RATES AND DEADLINES

- **May 31, 2026** Last day of **\$175.00** Registration Fee
- **Sept 01, 2026** Last day of **\$190.00** Registration Fee
- **Oct 30, 2026** **Last day for guaranteed room at best rate**
- **Nov 15, 2026** Last day of **\$200.00** Registration fee & deadline
- **Nov 15, 2026** **Cancellation deadline** to receive full registration refund

We will provide a listing of all registered alumni that have authorized us to share their names in our next newsletter for June/July. This reunion is a time to reconnect with friends and sharing this information has been requested to help attendees better plan.

DETAILS ON BAND FOR DINNER/DANCE BANQUET

By Lucy (Perry) Webb

Hello from beautiful San Antonio, Texas! I hope I'll see you in my hometown this December at what we hope will be an epic reunion.

One of my favorite local bands, **Classic Rewind**, will be playing for our listening and dancing pleasure in Estancia C following the banquet on Wednesday night from about 7:30 until 11:00. Dress in your favorite western duds and put on your dancing boots so we can stroll, twist, mashed potato, swing dance, or chair dance.

Classic Rewind has an extensive playlist primarily from the 60's, 70's and 80's; and they've promised to add any special requests they don't already know.

When you register for the reunion, you will receive a confirmation e-mail asking for a *favorite song from your Itazuke years*. Respond with your request (and a dedication if you want), and **Classic Rewind** will provide those favorites to bring back the wonderful memories of high school dances and keep us dancing through the evening.

LUCIA PIERCE, ASIAN ART EXPERT to provide lecture at upcoming reunion!

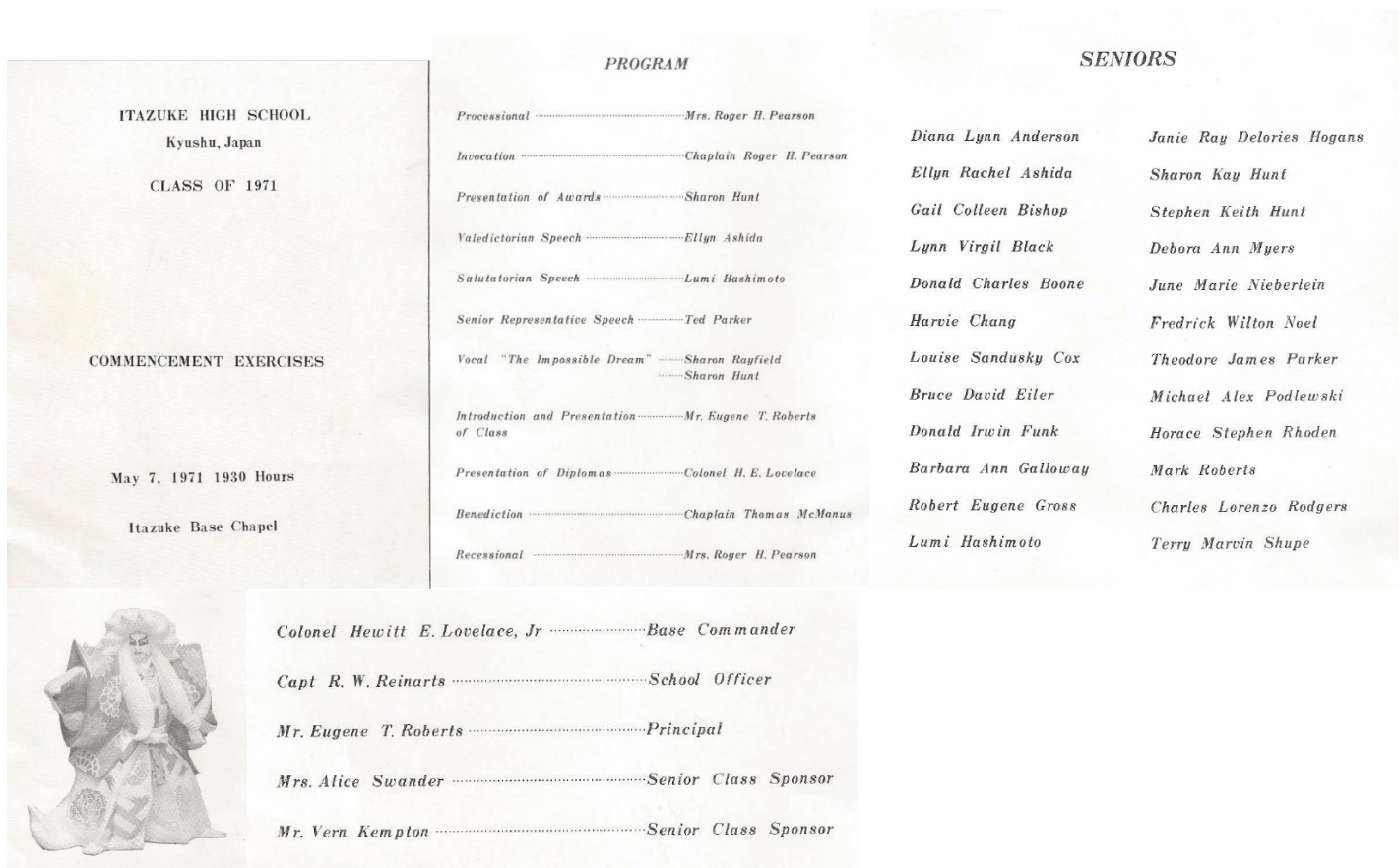
Lucia will discuss Japanese art and culture over the last 50-60 years with a focus on Kyushu and Hakata Dolls. Lecture will be 40-45 minutes, concluding with a 15 minute question and answer period. There are 2 lecture times available to attend during the upcoming 2026 IAA reunion.

Lucia Pierce graduated from high school at The American School in Japan and received a B.S. and M.S. from New York University, in education and Asian studies education respectively, and an M.A. in East Asian Studies with a focus on Chinese history, from Yale University. Lucia was the founding director of the Chinese Studies Program at Sidwell Friends School in Washington, DC, and the founding Head of Education and Public Programs at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery and Freer Gallery of Art which together form the National Museum of Asian Art at the Smithsonian Institution. She served as the Assistant Dean of Admissions for the inaugural class of NYU Shanghai and the Director of External and Academic Events for NYU Shanghai. After nine years in China, Lucia retired from full time work and returned to DC where she is an independent consultant.

“A SPECIAL INVITATION TO THE CLASS OF 1971”

Dear Fellow Class of 1971 Graduates:

Below please find the IHS Commencement Exercises Program for 1971. God bless my mother for keeping mementos from *about everything* her kids ever did! I recently came across it while searching for something else, and share it for two reasons: First, perhaps you no longer have yours and might find it interesting to see it again. The second and primary reason is 2026 is our 55th high school graduation anniversary. Doubtless most of us are now in our retirement years; our years of being tied to work schedules and children and their activities are now past us. Sadly, a few from our class have pre-deceased us: Harvie Chang, Bruce Eiler, Terry Shupe, and Stephen Hunt are four I know for sure have passed. I'm grateful that six of us (almost a third of the graduating class) are members of Itazuke Alumni Association: Diana Andersen Sherman, Elyn Ashida, Kashmir Csaky, Lumi Hashimoto Louden, Mark Roberts, and I. In addition, there are some IAA members who would have graduated with us had their fathers not been transferred: Tana Abel Dampier, April Arceo James, Gloria Bell May, Francine Burke, Sally Hammond Studebaker, Trudi Miller Costa, Lucy Perry Webb (2026 IAA Reunion Co-Chair), Don Rothenbaum, Joyce Sullivan, Dale Summers, Rosanne Wilcox, Ronnie Williams, and Donald Wood.



Finally, there are some classmates whose whereabouts are known to some of us but who are not members of IAA: Linda Hunter Atkinson, Faith Dupree-White, Lynn Black, and Aaron Paragoso, for example.

So, Lucy Perry Webb and I extend this VERY SPECIAL INVITATION TO YOU:

Please join us December 1-3, 2026, in San Antonio, Texas to celebrate

Class of 1971's Graduation 55th Anniversary

We have a fun itinerary planned, but most importantly, we would love to see each and every one of you again!

Won't you join us?

Warm Regards,

Barbara Galloway Berry

OFFICIAL 2026 REUNION T-SHIRTS



This beautiful tee shirt was designed by Ryan Chambers, great-nephew of Reunion Co-Chair Lucy Webb.

We have beautiful, soft T-shirts to wear for a group photo during the reunion. We urge you to purchase a shirt for your guest (IAA has gifted each alumnus his/her t-shirt) to wear for the group photos. T-shirt sales help fund the 2026 and future reunions, since dues are voluntary. Your shirt will be ready to pick up at the IAA registration table on December 1st.

NO AFTER REUNION ORDERS.

Instructions for ordering are provided on the Registration form and also instructions for ordering if you are not attending the reunion but would like to purchase the T shirt are included on the Registration form attached.

ALUMNI RECENTLY PASSED

Below is a list of recently passed Itazuke alumni or teachers. As you are informed, please forward an email to Barbara Galloway Berry to update the active/non-active email lists. If you have the obituary to provide, please attach it with your communication email.

Send email to: Hakatagal71@outlook.com

Janell Leigh Tatusko February 11, 1958 – August 02, 2018

Some info provided on Janell: she graduated HS in Tampa FL after leaving Itazuke, went on to complete a 4 year nursing program at Jackson Memorial in Miami, FL returning to Tampa to complete 30+ years of service at Tampa General Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital.

Roger L. Browning January 29, 1952 — February 16, 2026

Link to Roger's obituary: <https://www.warrenmcelwain.com/obituaries/roger-browning>

WEBSITE UPDATES

Alumni had noticed when they went to www.itazuke.org that they would get a warning that the site was not a secure site. Many web browsers were posting this message to alert users that encryption was not being used. The warning was not significant to our website as we were not collecting financial or personal data, but users were confused by the message and reluctant to proceed. This issue was noticed again recently and has been corrected per Teresa Green as of April 15, 2026.

So, this problem has been eliminated by adding an SSL certificate for encryption. This message should no longer occur on most browsers. **If you have any problems with the website, please contact Teresa Green at teresajgreen@me.com.**

The revised registration form for the 2026 reunion has been uploaded to the website with all the details for this spectacular upcoming reunion. Go to the website www.itazuke.org and print the Registration form found under FORMS or use the attached forms. There is additional reunion information on our website.

To make it easy to register, please find the registration forms attached along with this email distribution newsletter. Follow the instructions on page 2 of this newsletter to register.

REMINDER: REGISTER by 5/31/2026 for best rate, RESERVE HOTEL by 10/30/2026 deadline.

PHOTOS of PAST IAA REUNIONS – Don't forget to submit your favorite reunion photo for the next newsletter! Barbara and Rhonda have submitted photos below. Hope to see you all in San Antonio in December!



Just a few photos to remind you of the camaraderie and good times shared at the IAA Reunions.

Top left: Aaron Paragoso & Barb Galloway Berry in Houston

Bottom Left: Lumi Hashimoto, Diana and Sherry Anderson, Linda Hunter and Sherri Gay in Houston

Middle: Yvette Sisneros Swaney, Rhonda Halmrast Lebron and Virginia Puckett Simmons in Washington DC

Bottom: Joe Easley, Stewart Nakabayashi, Gary Krueger, Fran Nakabayashi, Rhonda Halmrast Lebron and Virginia Pucket Simmons in Colorado Springs

Right: Rhonda Halmrast Lebron, Virginia Pucket Simmons, Fran Nakabayashi, Charlie Akers, and Stewart Nakabayashi in Orlando