



# IAA NEWSLETTER

ITAZUKE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2026



## IAA OFFICERS 2024-2026

PRESIDENT: DAVE GIBSON

[just2toonice@aol.com](mailto:just2toonice@aol.com)

VICE PRESIDENT: JOHN O'BRIEN

[hakata57@yahoo.com](mailto:hakata57@yahoo.com)

SECRETARY: BARBARA GALLOWAY BERRY

[Hakatagal71@outlook.com](mailto:Hakatagal71@outlook.com)

TREASURER: TERESA GREEN

[teresajgreen@me.com](mailto:teresajgreen@me.com)

## Welcome to the Itazuke Alumni Association Newsletter

**This specific newsletter highlights the upcoming Election of Officers and request for IAA Newsletter production volunteers along with DEC 2026 upcoming San Antonio reunion updates.**

### Included please find:

- ❖ Upcoming AUGUST Election of four Board positions & volunteers to assist with production of our IAA Newsletter
- ❖ Down Memory Lane by Teresa Green
- ❖ IAA Donations (how to send)
- ❖ Looking for Class of 1963? Patricia A. (Crompton) Gonzales
- ❖ A Tale of 2 Classmates by Barbara Galloway Berry
- ❖ REUNION UPDATES
- ❖ Alumni Recently Passed

### An Important Message from the IAA President:

Dear IAA member,

The future of our organization depends upon those who step up to assist with such things as reunions and holding office. Our current Board members encourage you to become a candidate in our upcoming election for the four Board positions of: **President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary**. Also, we need volunteers to assist with the production of our newsletter. Job descriptions of each can be found on our website at [Itazuke.org](http://Itazuke.org).

If you would like to be a candidate for the IAA Board or to be part of the newsletter team, please contact me or Barbara Berry [Hakatagal71@outlook.com](mailto:Hakatagal71@outlook.com) via email and include **Itazuke Alumni Association** in the subject line of the email. ***Please respond as soon as possible to enable us to move forward with elections during the month of August if possible.***

Respectfully,

Dave Gibson IAA President IDS Admin

[Just2toonice@aol.com](mailto:Just2toonice@aol.com)

## DOWN MEMORY LANE by Teresa Green



We were going through my mother's things after she passed away last year and came across one of the letters that she had received while we lived in Japan. It brought back such memories. I sure hadn't thought about them in decades. You all must have seen them. They were called aerogrammes. Postage was a pre-paid flat fee for them.

[From Wikipedia] In 1970, an aerogram (or air letter) sent from the United States cost **15 cents** to mail anywhere in the world. This cost included both the stationery itself and the international airmail postage. Because aerograms were made of lightweight paper that could be folded and sealed without the need for an external envelope, they were one of the most economical ways to send international mail prior to the rise of modern digital communication.

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### IAA DONATION MONTH – JULY

The IAA Board has designated the month of July as the time for sending voluntary donations of any amount to IAA. **Donations are also welcome during any time of the year.** Follow instructions below to make donations.

#### How to Donate:

**Pay by check:** Make checks payable to **IAA**

**Mail to:** **Teresa Green, IAA Treasurer, 405 Hill St, Capitola, CA 95010- 3604**

**Another option is to Pay via PayPal or Zelle funds transfer:**

Send to our **IAA email address:** [itazukealumni@gmail.com](mailto:itazukealumni@gmail.com)

On all donations, please ensure you **identify yourself** so we can recognize you for your contribution. Also, **add a comment “for donation”**, so it is not identified as a reunion payment. Some of you have donated this year so please don't feel you need to do so again. **Thanks to all who have donated!!**

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### LOOKING for CLASS of 1963? ANYONE? by Patricia A. (Crompton) Gonzales

Dear Barbara, Yep, it's really me, Patricia A. (Crompton) Gonzales! First, I want to thank you for sending the newsletters to me over these past few months. Unfortunately, due to health issues, my husband and I will not be able to attend the upcoming reunion. We live in Upstate New York, about 90 miles from the Canadian border, so the reunions are always pretty far away for us to attend. However, I still always enjoy hearing about everyone who was at Zuke at some time. I do intend to send Teresa Green a donation to help with the newsletter.

Are there many people left who graduated in the year 1963? I often wonder what happened to James M. McGahee (also Class of 1963), as he and I dated. If you know where he is, let me know if you can. I know Babs Manning and Dennis Floto passed away. I knew Jeanne Crowdes (her maiden name), and Adelaide Ciranni (her maiden name). I dated Leroy Roes, David Cummings, Carl Bush, Ron Belyea over those years. Whatever happened to Bob Fergi or Bob Barnett or Gene Vosburg? Have you ever heard from Lauri Dalmer? Karlene and Sally Munisich (sisters-passed away)-Karlene from cancer and Sally was in a plane crash. Enclosed are a couple of photos of myself on my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday – Mar 5, 2026.



Please stay in touch with me about how the reunion went, pictures if you get them. Thank you again for all your letters, I do appreciate the time you've taken to write to me. **If you ever need to get in touch with me, my home phone is 315-452-1076. Please leave a message and identify yourself as “From Itazuke” if need be and I will get back to you.**

**Always, Pat-a 1963 Itazuke Graduate and proud of it!**



### CORE VIRTUES of BUSHIDO

A brief summary as shared by Dave Gibson

**BUSHIDO** - It is the historic moral code and lifestyle of the samurai class in feudal Japan. The code stresses martial skill, deep loyalty to a lord, personal honor, courage, and strict self-discipline.

#### 1. Gi (義) – Righteousness

Acting with moral integrity and justice, even at personal cost.

A samurai's decisions were guided by reason and principle, not convenience.

#### 2. Yū (勇) – Courage

Not recklessness, but the strength to act rightly despite fear or adversity.

#### 3. Jin (仁) – Benevolence

Compassion and protection of the weak, showing that true strength is tempered with kindness.

#### 4. Rei (礼) – Respect

Courtesy and self-control, even toward enemies.

#### 5. Makoto (誠) – Honesty

A binding word; deception was dishonorable.

#### 6. Meiyo (名誉) – Honor

Sacred reputation; dishonor could only be atoned for through self-sacrifice (e.g., seppuku).

#### 7. Chūgi (忠義) – Loyalty

Unwavering devotion to one's lord, family, or cause; betrayal was the gravest sin.

Note from Rhonda Lebron: There is a plethora of fascinating books to read about the samurai during feudal Japan. Check it out on Amazon. Thanks, Dave, for tickling our curiosity about all things Japan and possibly sparking a greater interest within our group. Not surprisingly, I found many patterns for tattoos for those whose fascination runs deep with the samurai.

## A TALE OF TWO CLASSMATES by Barbara Galloway Berry (Class of 1971)

You've undoubtedly heard of the classic Charles Dickens novel "A Tale of Two Cities". I am capitalizing on that title to call this "A Tale of Two Classmates" to demonstrate the novelty of the relationships that military kids like us enjoy. I hope it will inspire you to come to the December 2026 Reunion of Itazuke alumni in San Antonio, Texas.

Lucy Perry Webb arrived at Hakata in the summer of 1967. I also arrived at Hakata the summer of 1967, just shortly after school had started for the year. Lucy lived in a 4-plex on one corner of a T-intersection formed by Mater Drive and another street whose name I don't recall. That street dead ended at the NCO Club. I lived in a single-family home on the opposite corner of that T-intersection. For clarity, both of our addresses would've been Mater Drive, as was the NCO Club's. Its entrance faced Mater Drive. To the back were some woods that we traveled through a short distance to the beach beyond. To the left of the NCO Club were the tennis courts. Headed to the beach, I cut between the Club and the courts, through the woods, over the dunes, and onto the beach. Lucy took the "official path", which was to the right of her house. I guess that's why we never ended up "headed to the beach" at the same time!

Somehow or other, though we were close neighbors, in the same class year (Class of 1971), and rode the same bus both to and from Itazuke an hour each way for two whole years, we did not become close friends. That is odd, because we both sang in the Protestant Church Choir. She was an Alto and I was a Soprano. During the two-year period of Lucy's tenure at Hakata, she also sang in the school choir, was an Air Force Rockets cheerleader, and even taught preschoolers in Vacation Bible School. My family was also equally active in Protestant Chapel activities. I was a member of Protestant Youth of the Chapel; Lucy was not. She and I both babysat a lot. While she was working at the base theater, I was working part time at the Base Chapel typing up the Sunday bulletins and also very involved in Girl Scouts. She and I both worked in the women's locker room at the Beach House, but at different times: she was during 1967-1969, and I the summers of 1970 and 1971. Lucy met her future husband at the beach—he was the Head Lifeguard!

Lucy left Hakata in October 1969, moved in with her sister's family in San Antonio, and waited for future husband Bob Webb to return stateside. They were married in March 1970. I remained at Hakata and graduated from Itazuke in May 1971. Lucy and Bob were married 15 years and had three daughters together. Bob remained in the military, and they were stationed in Washington, DC; Virginia, Germany, Virginia again, Kentucky, and Germany again. Over this time, Lucy completed three years of college credit. She returned to San Antonio in 1984.

After I graduated, my dad was sent to Chicksands AFB in England. I went stateside to Eastern New Mexico University to be Linda Hunter's roommate (Itazuke 1968-1970). There I met my first husband, whom I married in December 1972 after three semesters. Linda Hunter married just a few weeks after I did. My husband and I moved to his hometown of Big Lake, Texas, where to my surprise I ran into another Hakata classmate and Itazuke High School graduate: Steve Baker (Class of 1970)! Steve and his wife and children were living in Big Lake while he worked in the oilfield. His wife's uncle owned a grocery store there. Yes, it is indeed a very small world! I lost track of Steve and his family after they moved to San Antonio. In 1978, my two-year-old son and I moved to San Angelo, Texas because I also got divorced. There I began what would turn into a 30+ year paralegal career and finished college in 1983.

Here is when the trajectories of our lives become a little closer, but don't touch: Lucy returned to San Antonio in 1984. In 1984, Lucy began a 34 year career at USAA in San Antonio. So, for two years, 1984-1986, Lucy and I were both in the same state, unaware of each other's presence. In 1986, my son and I moved to Tallahassee, Florida, and in 1987 I married my husband of nearly 40 years, John Berry (who I had met at Hakata). We married on June 6, 1987.

During the two days of July 10-12, 1987, Lucy and I both attended the first Itazuke-Hakata Reunion in Houston, Texas. Because so many in my circle of close friends were there, although I am sure Lucy and I are both in the Class of 1971 group photo, we do not recall seeing each other there. John and I made five cross-country moves during our marriage, and during one of them I lost most of my 1987 reunion photos. Lucy's got "destroyed" when the apartment superintendent for her apartment in Washington DC cleared out their locked storage locker in the basement, allegedly as required by the fire department. If anyone has photos from the 1987 reunion, I will happily pay for a set of copies!

Lucy stayed in San Antonio from 1984 until the present, working for USAA from then until she retired in 2018. I, in the meantime, lived in Tallahassee, Florida; Phoenix, Arizona; Gainesville, Florida; and Lansing, Michigan, before returning to Tallahassee for another 14 years until John's retirement. In August of 2020, we moved to Texas to be closer to family and settled in Abilene, Texas. In September 2024, I began my tenure as Secretary for Itazuke Alumni Association, and in the fall of 2025, I decided to do some preliminary research to see if a suitable hotel venue could be found there for the 2026 reunion. My online research yielded a beautiful hotel called Estancia del Norte, but I felt that a site visit was needed to make sure it was all it seemed to be. What happened next, I can only attribute to divine guidance: while looking at the database to see which alumni lived in the San Antonio

area, I ran across Lucy's name. Previously, I hadn't paid too much attention to individual names. There are 518 active alumni in the database, so when I send out emails for IAA business, I am always focused on email addresses and hadn't previously scrutinized names and addresses that closely. I remembered Lucy from Hakata, so I thought I would give her a call and see if she would be willing to help me do a site visit to the hotel. I called, and thankfully, she said yes.

On September 12, 2025, I met Lucy Perry Webb again, 56 years after she had left Hakata. Folks, here's the best part: it seemed like we had just seen each other the week before! This is a very common experience, I believe, for military dependents, and especially for overseas brats. There is just something about that experience that causes us to make friends easier with people of diverse backgrounds. The military life affords such unique experiences for us all that it creates some kind of supernatural bond between us that I'm not sure civilian kids experience. Maybe I'm wrong, but I kind of think I am right! I have to say that meeting Lucy again and becoming her friend this time has been such an unexpected blessing for me! By the end of the site visit, I asked Lucy if she would consider being the reunion co-chair. Her response, since we had bonded so well and had so many good ideas together, was "I think I already am!" I wanted to share this sweet experience of reconnecting with a former classmate again to encourage those of you who haven't yet registered for the reunion and are on the fence about whether you want to go. Please don't cheat yourself. I have every confidence that if you attend the reunion, you will connect with someone, have the same kind of experience Lucy and I had in reconnecting, and be so very glad you did. Life is short. The man or woman is rich who has friends. To me, it is an extra special friend who shares our military dependent life!

Barbara Galloway Berry  
Class of 1971  
Itazuke Alumni Association  
Reunion 2026 Co-Chair

**If you are attending this reunion and would like to assist or be a committee member, please reach out to our Secretary, Barbara Galloway Berry, [Hakatagal71@outlook.com](mailto:Hakatagal71@outlook.com)**

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## MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO ATTEND THIS REUNION!

Check the list of registrants for any of your Itazuke besties or register for the reunion, show up and make new besties! You don't want to miss this special time and place.

**Instructions for registering and reserving your hotel room are included in a separate attachment to this newsletter to make planning as easy as possible. Hope to see you there!!!**

## SAN ANTONIO KNOWN FOR THE ALAMO AND THE RIVER WALK



## REUNION REGISTRATION RATES AND DEADLINES

- **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

## UPDATED LIST OF IAA REUNION REGISTRANTS

| NAME                       | CLASS YEAR |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Bob Winstead               | 1959       |
| Joe Boling                 | 1960       |
| Fred Thomas                | 1961       |
| Dolores Thomas             | 1962       |
| Jim Dwyer                  | 1965       |
| William Holden, Jr.        | 1965       |
| Dana Allin Minnis          | 1965       |
| Terry Yamashita            | 1965       |
| Bob Dwyer                  | 1966       |
| Jimmie Easley              | 1966       |
| James Holden               | 1966       |
| Dave Gibson                | 1966       |
| Gary Whiteley              | 1966       |
| Fran Wolfe                 | 1966       |
| Deborah Allin Shushkewitch | 1967       |
| Joy Waddell Shong          | 1967       |
| Harry Kleinman             | 1968       |
| Barbara Yamashita          | 1968       |
| Joe Easley                 | 1969       |
| Ruby Schoffstall Green     | 1970       |
| Michael J. Holden          | 1970       |
| Barbara Berry              | 1971       |
| Lucy Perry Webb            | 1971       |
| Glynn Black                | 1972       |
| Bruce Gagne                | 1972       |
| Rhonda LeBron              | 1972       |
| Virginia Puckett Simmons   | 1972       |
| Yvette Sisneros Swaney     | 1972       |
| Hal Zaima                  | 1972       |
| Greg Parker                | 1973       |
| Bill Snowden               | 1973       |
| Pam Shupe Lyden            | 1974       |

|                                    |                      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| John Berry                         | Guest                |
| Suzie Black                        | Guest                |
| Louise Boling                      | Guest                |
| Gloria Crawford (Ruby Green guest) | Guest                |
| Akiko Dwyer                        | Guest                |
| Suwan Easley (Jimmie Easley)       | Guest                |
| Patty Easley                       | Guest                |
| Lori Gagne                         | Guest                |
| Michael John Holden                | Guest                |
| Alma Holden                        | Guest                |
| Jay Lyden                          | Guest                |
| Debby Parker                       | Guest                |
| Lucia Pierce (Lucy Webb Guest)     | Guest                |
| Glenn Shong (Joy Shong Guest)      | Guest                |
| Cheryl Thomas (Fred Thomas)        | Guest                |
| Teri Whiteley                      | Guest                |
| Pamela Winstead                    | Guest                |
| Charlie Akers (Fran Wolf Spouse)   | Guest                |
| Patricia Zarlino                   | Guest                |
| Ralph Zarlino                      | TEACHER<br>1966-1967 |

**32 ALUMNI PLUS 20  
GUESTS = 52 TOTAL  
REGISTERED**

**STILL TIME TO REGISTER  
AND MAKE PLANS TO  
ATTEND!!**

## REQUEST FOR DONATIONS TO THE REUNION SILENT AUCTION

If you have any item or items you would like to contribute to the Silent Auction, please let us know in advance so the bid sheet and space can be prepared for it. This activity is much appreciated and enjoyed by the attendees of the reunion as we celebrate together memories of our time at Itazuke and Hakata, Japan, by bidding on donations that depict this special time and place.

You may bring the item(s) with you and turn it in on Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> to one of the Reunion Co-Chairs or you can mail it ahead of time to Lucy Webb, address below:

Lucy Webb  
6219 Kingston Ranch  
San Antonio, TX 78249 United States

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## AGENDA FOR 2026 SAN ANTONIO IAA REUNION

### A NOTE FROM YOUR REUNION 2026 CO-CHAIRS:

The deadline arrived by which we had to pay the deposit for two 56 passenger buses or let one go. Since we only received one additional registration after the email notice about that deadline was sent out, we let one go.

*We assure you that we are committed to providing everyone who registers by November 15, 2026, with transportation to and from the barge excursion on Tuesday night. Transportation to and from the Riverwalk was advertised as being included in the registration fee and we will honor our commitment.*

### TUESDAY 12/1/2026

12:00 pm-4:00 pm: Registration in the lobby

**The Leddy Room, our designated Hospitality Room with Private Patio**

This area will be open for early arrivers whose rooms are not ready and for people to gather and mingle until the reception.

5:00 pm-6:00 pm - Welcome Reception - **Leddy Ranch (Hospitality Room)**

6:30 pm: Catch Transportation **picks up and takes** us to **Hyatt Regency, SAN ANTONIO RIVERWALK**

7:00 pm: **Go Rio Barges** leave for a one-hour **Narrated Cruise** to see the Christmas Lights

8:00 pm: **Return to the Hyatt Regency**

8:15 pm: Catch Transportation bus **pickup** to take us to **THE PEARL** for snacks, drinks or shopping

9:45 pm: Catch Transportation Bus **leaves THE PEARL to return to Estancia del Norte**

10:00 pm: Arrive back at the hotel. **Hospitality room (Leddy) remains open from 5:00pm-MIDNIGHT.**

### WEDNESDAY 12/2/2026

6:30 am-9 am: Breakfast in hotel or off property (on your own)

9:00 am-10 am: **Asian Lecture** with Lucia Pierce: **Las Brisas Room**

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:00 pm-2:00 pm: **Asian Lecture** with Lucia Pierce: **Las Brisas Room** :

2:00 pm-3:00 pm: **ITAZUKE TRIVIAL PURSUIT** in **Hospitality Suite (Leddy Room)**

9:00 am - midnight: **Hospitality Room and Private Patio** are open for gathering and perusing memorabilia and silent auction items

5:30 pm-11:00 pm: **Banquet / Dance** - Estancia C (3-piece Band) with cash bar (doors open at 5:00 pm) Last call for alcohol at 10:30 pm and band ends at 11 pm.

11:00 pm: **Silent Auction Winners announced.** Winners and those interested proceed to Hospitality Room to pay for and collect items. Others can visit until midnight.

11:00 pm-12:00 am: **Hospitality room Leddy Ranch** (no bar)

### THURSDAY 12/3/2026

8:00 am-10:00 am: All American **Breakfast** as a group (doors open at 7:30 am) - **Rio Grande Room**

Time to say our goodbyes or spend another day checking out all the wonderful sites in San Antonio.

## 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](mailto:Hakatagal71@outlook.com)

**James "Popi" Michael Boling** Obituary (Nov 8, 1947 - Mar 6, 2020) from Richland GA - McMullen Funeral Home

<https://www.mcmullenfuneralhome.com/obituaries/james-boling>

**VOLUNTEER IAA NEWSLETTER TEAM\*\*\*\*** 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.

- ✓ Rhonda Halmrast Lebron, Editor [rhonlebron@gmail.com](mailto:rhonlebron@gmail.com)
- ✓ Pam Shupe Lyden [plyden@ebo-consulting.com](mailto:plyden@ebo-consulting.com)
- ✓ Mary Anderson Baker [chapperb1@gmail.com](mailto:chapperb1@gmail.com)

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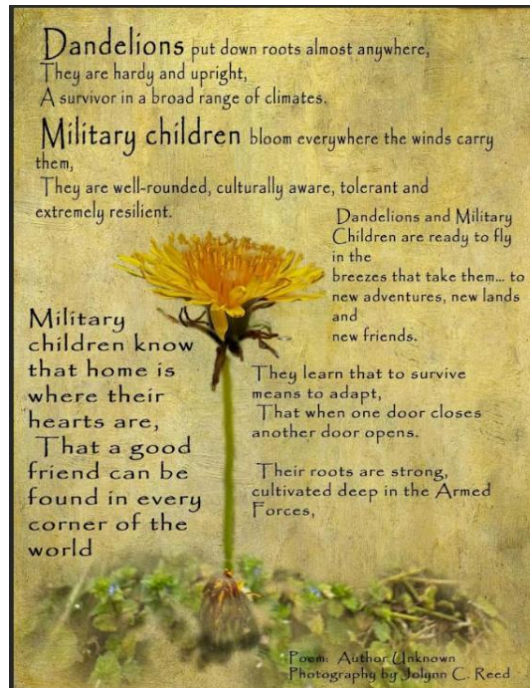
**REMINDER:** REMEMBER HOW SPECIAL THIS GROUP OF ITAZUKE BRATS IS AND CONSIDER RUNNING FOR A BOARD POSITION of **PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, TREASURER or SECRETARY.** WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR AT LEAST 3 VOLUNTEERS FOR THE IAA NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION.

FOR JOB DESCRIPTIONS REFER TO WEBSITE: [Itazuke.org](http://Itazuke.org)

WE ARE MILITARY BRATS, THE DANDELIONS, RESILIENT AND STRONG. LET US HOLD ON TO THE TRADITIONS OF THE REUNIONS, THE SHARING OF MEMORIES AND NEW EXPERIENCES WITH AND ABOUT JAPAN, OUR JAPAN FRIENDS AND CLASSMATES. THIS TRADITION IS WORTHY OF OUR TIME AND TALENT. PLEASE CONSIDER....



My dandelion cap I picked up on my summer trip – one of a kind, extra special, just like each of you.



**MILITARY BRATS  
THE ITAZUKE/HAKATA  
JAPAN EXPERIENCE**

Dandelions don't wait for the perfect soil.  
They take root where the wind lands them.  
They grow anyway.  
They shine anyway.



**BE LIKE A DANDELION**  
—resilient, wild, and unstoppable

If you would like to be a candidate for the IAA Board or to be part of the newsletter team, please contact Dave Gibson [Just2toonice@aol.com](mailto:Just2toonice@aol.com) or Barbara Galloway Berry [Hakatagal71@outlook.com](mailto:Hakatagal71@outlook.com) via email and include **Itazuke Alumni Association** in the subject line of the email.