



IAA NEWSLETTER

ITAZUKE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2026



IAA OFFICERS 2024-2026

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Welcome to the Itazuke Alumni Association Newsletter

This specific newsletter highlights the DEC 2026 upcoming reunion in San Antonio TX

Included please find:

- ❖ Drawing Winner for the "GRAND MARSHAL"
- ❖ JULY IAA Donation Month
- ❖ List of Reunion Registrants
- ❖ Agenda for the Group Outings
- ❖ Other Area Sites of Interest – San Antonio Facts
- ❖ Additional Past Reunion Photos

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

***CONGRATULATIONS* TO DRAWING WINNER GARY WHITELEY
2026 REUNION GRAND MARSHAL!!**



Gary
Whiteley

1964
yearbook
picture

10th grade

Only year
at Itazuke

- ❖ 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

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.

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

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 donate, you are much appreciated!

OFF TO A GREAT START FOR REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED FOR 2026 IAA REUMION

Barbara Galloway Berry is happy to report that we hit **FIFTY** registrations by the May 31,2026 deadline to receive best registration fee and to be entered in the drawing for the Grand Marshal of the 2026 Itazuke Alumni Association Reunion. Winner of the drawing is shown on the front page.

Unfortunately, the 1960's decade is outpacing the 1970's by 5 people!

Come on, Classes of the 1970's - send in your registrations to beat the 1960's alumni in this fun “competition”! Check the list on the next page(s) to see if there is a name you recognize and would love to spend some catch up time with over this 3 day reunion. The group agenda is provided after the listing of all registrations received.

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 provided in this newsletter to make planning as easy as possible.** Hope to see you there!!!

SAN ANTONIO KNOWN FOR THE ALAMO AND THE RIVER WALK



LIST OF IAA REUNION REGISTRANTS BELOW:

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
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
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 1966-1967

Request for Donations to the Silent Auction

If you have an 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 1st 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**

AGENDA FOR 2026 SAN ANTONIO IAA REUNION

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. See next page for fun facts of San Antonio and some places to visit while in this beautiful area.

PHOTOS OF PREVIOUS IAA REUNIONS BELOW



San Antonio Facts

by Pam Shupe Lyden

As we approach the 2026 reunion on December 1-3, we wanted to provide a few highlights of San Antonio (SA) while you are in the area. The city is a blend of history, fun and culture! There is much for you to enjoy. Just ask one of us who lives in the area if you have any questions.

SA is the **6th largest city** in the nation with a population of 1.57 million. It's known for its **18th century Missions** including **The Alamo** and the famous **Riverwalk**.

Additionally, its known as "**Military City USA**" due to the strong presence of our military.

Things to do during your stay:

Riverwalk - when you step from the street to the Riverwalk, you may feel like you have been placed in another country. There is a 15 mile network of walkways, restaurants (especially Mexican food), and shops. The Reunion Committee has organized a barge trip on Tuesday evening for you to enjoy the vibrant culture, history and festive Christmas lights.

The Alamo - visit the historic Spanish 1718 mission and fortress that shaped the course of Texas and American history. The Alamo is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

San Fernando Cathedral - enjoy a free 24 minute **evening laser light show** that illuminates the cathedral's facade with a colorful visual history of Texas and San Antonio. It is an incredible sight to see. **Schedule: Tues-Sun at 9:00, 9:30, 10:00.** Please verify the schedule for December. There are some park benches but seating fills up fast.

Historic Market Square - visit the largest Mexican market in the United States. There is a 3 block outdoor plaza with over 100 shops and stalls selling authentic Mexican crafts, clothing and food. The Mi Tierra Cafe is a delicious place to eat any time of the day.

The Historic Pearl - this area is a historic landmark that was once the Pearl Brewery (1883-2001) and has been resurrected into a cultural and culinary district featuring restaurants, shops and Hotel Emma. In December there will be an outdoor Christmas market where you can enjoy food and unique gift shopping. Please check the December schedule. Check with the hotel for a shuttle or take a short Uber ride.

Note: Following the barge experience Tuesday evening, the Reunion Committee has arranged for the bus to take attendees to the Historic Pearl for about an hour and a half to enjoy the shops, Christmas lights, and market before the bus returns to the hotel. Those who desire to stay later can always Uber back to the hotel.



**SAN
ANTONIO
DURING
FESTIVE
CHRISTMAS
HOLIDAY
SEASON !!**

San Antonio Facts continued...

If you plan to extend your stay, there are a number of small towns to visit in the Texas Hill Country. Either rent a car or share an uber to some of the towns that are closer to SA. See below for a sampling.

Boerne - 30 minutes northwest of SA and known for its German heritage. You can enjoy the "Hill Country Mile" Main Street which combines 1800s limestone architecture with modern boutiques, dining and wineries.

Fredericksburg - known for its deep German Heritage with Main Street shopping, 60 wineries and home to the National Museum of the Pacific War. This town is about 60 miles away so personal vehicle would be needed.

Gruene (Historic district of New Braunfels) - Located 30 minutes from downtown SA (easy Uber ride), it's known for its strong German heritage and river tubing on the Guadalupe and Comal rivers. Gruene Hall is **the oldest dance hall in Texas** where you can find music 7 days a week. Additionally, there are a number of other venues to enjoy music. There are many restaurants, unique shops and a Christmas market with handmade goods. Cowboy Kringle will ride into town on horseback on December 5th to kick off the Christmas season. The Main Street will be shut down and you can grab a seat on a bale of hay to take in the parade.

UPCOMING IAA REUNION INFORMATION – HOW TO ATTEND

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

REGISTRATION

(registration form can be pulled from www.itazuke.org website under forms)

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.

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.

OFFICIAL 2026 REUNION T-SHIRTS



HOTEL RESERVATION

Use code **Itzuke** 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

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**

ALUMNI RECENTLY PASSED

Below is a list of recently passed Itzuke 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

Jeffrey Charles Ruppel September 6, 1953 - September 3, 2021

Link to Jeff's obituary: <https://www.kentforestlawn.com/obituaries/Jeffrey-Charles-Ruppel?obid=42879948>

Jeff was Class of 1971 and he attended Zuke 1966-1968

Jerry Lee Grant (maiden name Shull) October 10, 1938 – November 23, 2025

Link to Jerry's obituary: <https://neptunesociety.com/obituaries/north-richland-hills-tx/jerry-grant-12632198>

Jerry Shull was Class of 1957 and attended Itzuke 1952-1955

VOLUNTEER IAA NEWSLETTER TEAM

- ✓ Rhonda Halmrast Lebron, Editor 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. We are asking for photos of past reunions that you would like to see posted in the next newsletter.

ITAZUKE COBRAS – NEVER FORGET

**Itazuke Alumni Association Reunion
San Antonio, Texas – December 1-3, 2026
Registration Form**

Registration includes Tuesday Night Welcome Reception, Wednesday Night Sit-down Banquet and Dance, Closing Sit-Down Breakfast Thursday morning, charter bus transportation to and from the River Walk Barge Experience on Tuesday night, and a Reunion T-shirt for each alumnus.

Hotel is booked separately. Please see below.

Itazuke attendee name _____
Name used while at Itazuke _____

Graduation class year ____ Years at Itazuke from ____ to ____ Grades at Itazuke ____ to ____
We will use a Bamboo yearbook photo. If none is available, please provide us with a headshot photo taken during your time at Itazuke so we may use it on your reunion badge.

Email address: _____
Mailing address _____
City, State, ZIP _____ Cell Phone _____

Note: All contact information is private. Cell Phone number is requested for use by Reunion Coordinators only both prior to and during the reunion.

Spouse or adult guest's Name _____
(Please, no children under 18.)

Please initial here authorizing us to disclose your name, graduation class (i.e., Class of 1971), years at Itazuke, and home state only for use in future newsletters in order to encourage your classmates to join you at the reunion. _____.
Please checkmark here if this will be your first Itazuke Alumni Association Reunion _____

Registration Fees per Person (Alum or Guest). PLEASE NOTE REGISTRATION DISCOUNT DATES.
Also Note: If you are forced to cancel your attendance after November 15, 2026, we will be unable to give you a refund, because we will have committed your presence to the hotel at that point.

By **May 31, 2026** _____ persons x \$175.00 = \$ _____
\$190.00 from **June 1, 2026, to September 1, 2026** _____ persons x \$190.00 = \$ _____
\$200.00 from **2 September to November 15, 2026** _____ persons x \$200.00 = \$ _____

Because of contractual commitments to the hotel, we cannot accept registrations later than November 15, 2026.

BARGE EXPERIENCE: Tuesday night a charter bus will take those interested to the Riverwalk for a one-hour barge trip to see the Christmas Lights. After the barge trip, our charter bus will pick us up and take us to the Pearl to see Christmas Lights there and have a drink/snack before returning to the hotel. This is a handicap friendly experience. Cost per person to ride the River Barge will be \$15/ea (includes tips). Please indicate here your election to ride the barge: _____ people at \$15/each= \$ _____.

Mail this form with check payable to: Itazuke Alumni Association c/o Barbara Berry at 2502 Savannah Oaks Bend, Abilene, TX 79602. Alternatively, you may email the registration form to Barbara Berry at hakatagal71@outlook.com and simultaneously transmit funds for registration fees and/or T-shirts via PayPal or Zelle to itazukealumni@gmail.com

Questions about the reunion? Contact Barbara Berry at hakatagal71@outlook.com (preferred) or 850-728-3805.

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.

Please indicate size(s) and number desired (\$25 each for S, M, L, XL, \$30 each for XXL, XXXL)

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

Note: for this reunion you are an alumnus and eligible for a free tee shirt if you attended any grade level of Itazuke Dependent Schools. Please do not add \$25 for this shirt.

GUEST SHIRT: _____ Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ XL @ \$25 each or _____ XXL _____ XXXL @ \$30 each _____

(Shirt color is the school color of Royal Blue with white lettering)

If you don't plan to attend the reunion but still want a T-shirt, you may order it to be mailed to you for a small shipping fee of \$10.00 each. Fill in the number and sizes desired and complete the address information below and send with a check made payable to Itazuke Alumni Association, c/o Barbara Berry, 2502 Savannah Oaks Bend, Abilene, TX 79602, or submit payment to **PayPal** or **Zelle** to itazukealumni@gmail.com. Note: Shirts will be mailed after the reunion.

Please ship the T-shirts indicated above to:

Name _____

Street address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

REGISTRATION FEES TOTAL: \$ _____

BARGE TICKET TOTAL: \$ _____

T-SHIRT TOTAL: \$ _____

SHIPPING IF NOT ATTENDING REUNION: \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____ (ALL OF THE ABOVE)

HOTEL 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. You can reserve your room online at:

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

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.**

Free Parking and free shuttle service from and to the airport and within a two-mile radius of the hotel.

On all payments, please ensure you identify yourself.