

REUNION 2026
DECEMBER 1-3, 2026
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Many people have visited beautiful San Antonio, home of a number of military bases, home to the famous Alamo, a city that boasts a multi-cultural heritage that appeals to the Overseas Brat in each of us. Few, however, have visited San Antonio when it is decked out in its finest and showing its very best face for visitors during the Happiest Time of the Year: Christmas!

Come Christmas Shop with us! Christmas shopping can be a stressful, sometimes boring or frustrating experience, but NOT when you are doing it in a fabulous city, with friends who will “shop until they drop” with you, and then join you for coffee and treats in the iconic North Star Mall! Don’t like to Christmas shop? No problem, come relax in the beautiful Estancia del Norte Hotel, one of Hilton’s Tapestry Collection Properties, located just across the street from North Star Mall. There will be plenty of places around the property for you to visit with small groups of Itazuke Friends, or you all can hang out in the beautiful Leddy Ranch Room, which will be Itazuke’s Hospitality Suite for the reunion.

Here’s the itinerary for what promises to be a memorable 2026 IAA Reunion:

December 1, 2026:

Check in starts at noon and continues until 4:00 p.m. (we will accommodate late comers—just let us know your arrival time if it will be outside these parameters. We will be sure to greet you!)

Hospitality room opens at noon, so no need to worry if your room is not ready. The hotel will mind your luggage, so come see us at the Itazuke Alumni Association check-in table right in the lobby (you’ll see us as soon as you come through the doors), pick up your goodie bag, and then head on over to the Leddy, our Hospitality Room for the reunion.

5:00-6:00 p.m. Welcome Reception in The Leddy. There will be heavy hors d’oeuvres and either a cash or hosted bar. Not a long period, just enough to say hello and get the reunion off to a great start!

6:30 p.m. If you elect to participate in the River Barge Experience, you need to be at the front doors of the lobby to load up on our charter bus. Don’t feel like going down to the Riverwalk (surely you don’t want to miss the beautiful Christmas Lights and the decorations at The Pearl?)—no problem! The Hospitality Suite will be open and the cash or hosted bar open until 11:00 p.m. Also, there is a beautiful Private Patio connected to the Leddy, and it is ours for both days of our reunion. So, if the weather is nice—head on out to the patio! You escaped your northern state for Texas’s beautiful weather, so take advantage of it!

7:00-8:00 p.m. Our Charter Bus will drop us off between 6:40 and 6:55 p.m. at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Riverwalk, where it is a short walk and elevator ride to the GoRio Barge loading dock. There will be a ramp to accommodate those with mobility issues. From 7:00-8:00 we will ride the River, looking at all the beautiful Christmas lights. Heads up: there may be Christmas Caroling. Santa may make an appearance!

8:00 p.m. we return to the Hyatt Regency to board the Charter Bus for the short ride to The Pearl to do a little shopping, a little snacking, a little drinking, a little talking—well, you get the picture!

9:45 p.m. we board the Charter Bus again for the short 15 minute ride back to the hotel. Not tired? Great! You can drop back into the Hospitality Room and see who's there, hang out with friends, or just head on up to your room for a great night's sleep!

December 2, 2026:

Hey, this is a vacation! You gotta get rested for those holidays coming up! No need to get up early. Have breakfast whatever time you want, make plans to meet up with old and new friends, and decide whether you will shop instead of or after the one-hour Asian Art Lecture that starts at 9:00 a.m. in the Las Brisas Room. No worries if you don't want to get started that early. You have another chance at 1:00 p.m. to see the same or a similar lecture in the Las Brisas Room.

Our Asian Art Lecture will be presented by Lucia Pierce, a retired Art Educator, who just happens to be Lucy Perry Webb's cousin. Lucia 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 and an M.A. from Yale University in East Asian Studies with a focus on Chinese history. 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. Lucia's lecture will focus on art from Kyushu during the last 50-60 years and on Hakata Dolls.

If you are a shopper, Estancia's hotel shuttle will be happy to run you across the street to North Star Mall for a day of shopping (or a few hours, anyway) at whatever time you choose. They'll also pick you up when you are ready to return to the hotel. Shuttle service is free (a tip for the driver is your choice, but remember, it's Christmas!)

If shopping is not what you came to do, no worries! There will be Itazuke memorabilia in the Hospitality Room (Leddy Room), silent auction items to peruse, and snacks for you to enjoy all day.

5:30 p.m. is when the main event begins! We have a sit-down dinner and dance planned for you. Our band is a wonderful local group, "Classic Rewind." There will also be a cash or hosted bar. When the dance is over at 11:00 p.m., you can swing back by the Hospitality Room to see if you won the silent auction, and if you did, pay for and pick up your item(s)! The Hospitality Room will be open till **midnight** for those of you who are night owls. Note: The private patio will close at 11:00 p.m., but is available all day until then.

December 3, 2026:

So long, farewell, sayonara, and goodbye! We have one last chance to be together. This morning Breakfast starts at 8 am. In the Rio Grande Room. We have a sit-down breakfast planned so we can eat, listen to some closing remarks, take a few more photos, and say goodbye to all our old and new friends before everyone starts checking out to begin travel home. Check out time is 11:00 a.m. so no need to rush through breakfast!

Barbara Galloway Berry and Lucy Perry Webb, both Class of 1971 and classmates at Itazuke from 1967-1969 (Barbara was at 'Zuke until after graduation), have partnered to organize this reunion for you. Our goal is that every person who comes to the Reunion feels seen, included, connected, and has a FANTASTIC TIME! Come be a part of IAA's Reunion 2026! We look forward to seeing you!

BEFORE THE REUNION

Once you register, you will receive a confirmation email and a request for further information that will help us make sure YOU have the best time ever at the 2026 Reunion. So, be on the lookout for that email from Barbara at hakatagal71@outlook.com. (Put me in your computer's address book so it doesn't go into junk mail.)