

THE ORIGINS OF THE BAKERSFIELD-WAKAYAMA SISTER CITY AFFILIATION

- ☞ 1961-1965: The City of Bakersfield entered into its Sister City relationship with **Wakayama City, Japan** on August 21, 1961 (City Resolution 81-61) as a part of the People to People Program begun by President Eisenhower (the steering committee which was the precursor to Sister City Program).
- ❖ The Women's Division of the Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce, led by Mrs. Adeline Frasch, was very active in forming the People to People Steering Committee which helped in the establishment of this affiliation.
 - ❖ Mayor Gene Winer served as the ex officio chair of this committee, with first Donald Kent(1962) and then Richard Tigner (1963-1966) serving as general chairmen.
 - ❖ In September 1963, it was determined that a non-profit corporation should be formed to replace the Steering Committee. Three members of the steering committee would need to act as directors to sign the articles of incorporation.
 - ❖ Richard O. Tigner, Vera K. Gibson, and Rex O. Williams acted as these directors, and signed the Articles of Incorporation for the Bakersfield Sister City Project Corporation on October 28, 1965.
- ☞ 1964:
- ❖ In April, 1964, an official delegation of 21-33 city officials visited Bakersfield. Mayor Takagaki had originally planned to visit but was unable to do so. In his absence, the delegation was headed by Zenuemon Okamoto, head of the Wakayama City Commerce and Industry Association, and Kazo Kuki, speaker of the Wakayama City Congress.
 - ❖ At that time, Bakersfield Mayor Gene Winer and the City of Bakersfield were presented with a 400-year old suit of Samurai armor, worn at the battle of Sekigahara in 1600, a carved Ramma wood panel by sculptor Akira Saika depicting Wakayama Castle, a contemporary oil painting by Watase Ryoun, and a Japanese scroll painting by Harutomi Tokugawa, the tenth Daimyo of Wakayama, completed in 1789.
 - ❖ Later that year, in July, a delegations of 27 people representing Bakersfield, including city officials, visited Wakayama, where a formal agreement between the two cities was signed by Mayor Takagaki and ????.
- ☞ 1966:
- ❖ On January 17, 1966, the first meeting of the Board of Directors of BSCPC was held at Bill Lee's Bamboo Chopsticks restaurant. Temporary Chairman Richard Tigner was elected President of BSCPC, until the first meeting of all members could be held.
 - ❖ On February 7, 1966, the first Annual meeting of members of BSCPC was held at Bill Lee's Bamboo Chopsticks, and Hal Reinhardt was duly elected President.

☞ **Presidents of Bakersfield Sister City Project Corporation**

- ❖ **Richard O. Tigner (January, 1966-February, 1966)**
- ❖ **Hal Renhardt (1966-1967)**
- ❖ **Dave Urner (1967-1971)**
- ❖ **Walter Kane (1971-1972)**
- ❖ **Art Masters (1972-1976)**
- ❖ **Adeline Frasch (1976-1980)**
- ❖ **Dave Urner (1980-1982)**
- ❖ **Ron Montgomery (1982-1984)**
- ❖ **Leland Luttrell (1984-1989)**
- ❖ **James Caswell (1989-1991)**
- ❖ **Dave Urner (1991-1994)**
- ❖ **Cathi Chrisco (1994-1997)**
- ❖ **Dr. Joseph Anderson (1997-2000)**
- ❖ **George Ogden (2000-2003)**
- ❖ **Frank Tripicchio (2003-2006)**
- ❖ **Dr. Stanley Eugene Clark (2006-2009)**

TIMELINE OF BAKERSFIELD-WAKAYAMA SISTER CITIES EXCHANGES

1961		<u>Mayors: Takagaki & Winer</u>
	July	Wakayama establishes a Sister City Relationship with Bakersfield, California.
	August 21	Resolution 81-61 of Bakersfield City Council, establishes friendship with Wakayama, Japan.
1962		<u>Wakayama Chair: Mayor Takagaki</u>
	????	People to People Steering Committee is formed by Mayor Gene Winer and the Women's Division of the Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce to oversee Bakersfield-Wakayama Sister City relationship. Donald Kent first chairman.
	October	Daishin Elementary School and Roosevelt Elementary school establish a Sister School Relationship.
1963	October	30 members of the Sister City group from Bakersfield visit Wakayama City.
1964	February	Mr. N. Okamoto visits Bakersfield to prepare for delegation visit in April. Attended meeting of People to People Steering Committee.
	April	33 city officials from Wakayama, led by Zenuemon Okamoto, visit Bakersfield. (All homestay)
	June	5 Judo Students (Jack Griffin, John Young, Mark Gay, Steve Osborn, and ??) travel to Wakayama. (Jack said in an article that he & John would stay 8 months.) While they were there, another girl from Bakersfield—Joan Eyberle—was there as an exchange student from San Jose State.
	July	27 city officials from Bakersfield visit Wakayama. Official Sister City Declaration signed. 5 college students from Bakersfield come to Wakayama as exchange students.
	December	Hirose elementary school and McKinley elementary school establish a Sister School relationship.
1965		<u>Mayors: Takagaki & Karlen</u>
	January	Bakersfield holds Japanese Dinner as fundraiser for student exchange program.
	June	2 College Students (John Hefner & Jane Parker) and 1 instructor (Mrs. Sybil Gray) travel to Wakayama. Others who visited Wakayama were Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Stanton (Stanton taught at East High).
	July	4 Students travel to Bakersfield for one year. Chaperones included Alfred Okamoto, Zenichiro Oshitani, Akio Tabata & Miss Keiko Tabata. Students were Yoshihiro Noguchi, Kunihiro Kurimoto (also a high school teacher in Wakayama), Miss Yoko Sasai, & Miss Makiko Sakaguchi.
	October 28	Bakersfield Sister City Project Corporation (BSCPC) signs articles of incorporation.
1966		5 TH ANNIVERSARY
		<u>Mayors: Ujita & Karlen. Chairs: Hama & Tigner (steering committee)/Reinhardt</u>
	February 7	First Annual Meeting of Members of BSCPC is held. Hal Reinhardt is elected first president.
	March	Johoku elementary school and Henry Eissler elementary school

		establish a Sister School relationship.
	August	Wakayama products displayed at Bakersfield Industrial Exposition
	October	Mayor of Bakersfield leads delegation of 12 to Wakayama.
	December	5 th anniversary celebration.
		Wakayama presents Bakersfield with a stone lantern.
		Mr. Urner visits Wakayama (Their records say this. Dave says Spring 1967)
1967	February	<u>Dave Urner elected BSCPC president</u>
	June	Two teachers sent to summer school at College in Bakersfield (citizen exchanges organized)
	July	20 teacher representatives visit Wakayama
	November	4 th graders at Saika elementary school and Colonel Howard Nichols elementary School establish 4 th grade ties.
1968	January	A cultural group showcasing flower arrangements and Japanese music and dance visits Bakersfield.
	June	Two Wakayama teachers sent to BC summer school (Egawa)
	July	A Sister City group from Bakersfield visits Wakayama and participates in memorial tree planting in Castle garden.
1969		<u>Mayors: Ujita & Hart</u>
	May	Flower seeds sent to Bakersfield (In August, Bakersfield also sent flower seeds)
	June	2 instructors are sent to BC summer school (Hayashi & Tsuji)
	August	2 teachers from Bakersfield visit Wakayama: Carol Bisbee & Mary Round
1970	May	Mayor Hart & group of 70 people visits Wakayama.
	October	34 City officials visit Bakersfield (All homestay) Details?
1971		10 th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION <u>Committee chairs: Hama & Walter Kane</u>
	August	Wakayama presents Bakersfield with an English version of a tourism video.
1972		<u>Committee chairs: Hama & Art Masters</u>
	January	Mayor Shozo Ujita of Wakayama leads delegation of 20 to Bakersfield. The Delegation included 6 members of the Wakayama City Council (Motoi Okamoto, Ryoichi Okuno, Shirgeru Kawaguchi, Satoru Nakatani), and others. (listed in article dated 1/7/1972)
1973	April	Bakersfield High School Chorus Group visits Wakayama 56 members of the Sister City committee visit Wakayama
1974	October	Wakayama Sister City Committee leads delegation of 17 to Bakersfield.
1975	Summer	2 Bakersfield teachers visit Wakayama as part of a teacher exchange program: Linda Maples and Mary Alice Kessinger.
1976	April	15 TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION <u>Committee chairs: Hama & Adeline Frasch</u> 41 people from Bakersfield visit Wakayama to celebrate the completion of a new City Hall. (According to minutes of 1976 Annual Meeting of BSCPC, Highland High's choral group, Great Scot, were to go on this trip. Did they?)
	June-July	Members of the W akayama Sister City committee visit Bakersfield. Wakayama citizens

		were entertained at 4 th of July Bicentennial Celebration.
	Summer	70 teenage girls representing Wakayama basketball teams visit Bakersfield. (homestays for all)
	October	Mayor Ujita led delegation of 30 for 15 th Anniversary & Bicentennial Celebration (Mayor's dinner at Hill House)
1977	July-August	72 members of the Wakayama Youth Choir visit Bakersfield. (All homestay) and perform at the West High School lecture center. Conductors of the choir were Ku Kunizumi Hayashi and Junsuke Kumaota. One accompanist was Taki Yui.
	Same time	Bakersfield City Schools entertained 43 visiting principals from Wakayama. BSCPC hosted dinner at West High School
	Summer	North High School girls' basketball team visited Japan. (20 girls) They played 13 games on their tour, winning 9.
1978	March	40 members of Junior and Senior High School Basketball Teams visit Bakersfield
	Summer	West High School Madrigal Singers, led by Bob Petker, visit Wakayama and perform at a dual concert with the Wakayama Children's Choir.
	August	26 members of Junior and Senior High School Basketball Teams visit Wakayama
	October	Delegation of Wakayama Sister City Committee visits Bakersfield.
1979	July	6 people come to Wakayama to celebrate 90 th year of Incorporation
	August	40 members of the swim team visit Bakersfield.
	November	15 people make a formal visit to Bakersfield
1980		<u>Committee chairs: Hama & Urner (2)</u>
	March	87 people, including the Wakayama Youth Choir (50) and Nakanuma Ballet (10), visit Bakersfield. (homestays)
	June	40 members of a High school swim team, led by Sandy Urner, visit Wakayama
	October	30 Wakayama principals, teachers, & board of education consultants visit Bakersfield, touring Bakersfield & West High, Chipman Jr. High, Eissler, & Rosedale schools. (Teachers included Iwao Hori, Hiromachi Hishishito, Keiji Takahashi, & Kurasoke Inoue.)
1981		20 TH ANNIVERSARY OF SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP <u>Mayors: Ujita & Mary Kay Shell</u>
	July	Bakersfield's Chipman Junior High School Choir of 62 visits Wakayama. (Leland Luttrell , president of Charger Choir Booster Club)
1982		<u>Committee chairs: Hama & Wes Montgomery</u>
	March	Wakayama swim team (20) and 10 adults visit Bakersfield, hosted by Stockdale Swim Club. They compete in Kern County Relay Swim Meet at Bakersfield College.
	April	Wakayama basketball team (40) visits Bakersfield, hosted by Chipman Junior High students. The game is held in Highland High gym with 500+ in attendance.
	April	Mayor Mary K. Shell of Bakersfield leads delegation of 30 to commemorate 20 th anniversary of relations. Delegation includes Dr. Anderson and group of 12 square dancers. American Consul General attended events in Wakayama.
	November	38 people, led by Mayor Ujita, make a formal visit to Bakersfield. Highlights of

		visit include attending Bakersfield College vs Taft College football game and planting redwood tree at City Hall.
1983		<u>Committee chairs: Takahashi & Montgomery</u>
	March	120 people from Wakayama Youth Choir and a Nakanuma Ballet visit Bakersfield. Perform at Civic Auditorium for a Rotary Convention. Homestays provided by Nichols and Chipman students.
1984		Mayors: Ujita & Payne Committee chairs: Takahashi & Leland Luttrell
	April	Bakersfield's West High School Soccer Team visits Wakayama.
	???	One student from Wakayama (Misoko Yamamoto) and one from Bakersfield (Laurie Kempen) carried Olympic torch for one kilometer each, sponsored by Maruko Group of Japan.
1985		<u>Committee chairs: Takimoto & Luttrell</u>
	July	108 members of the Chipman Junior High Charger Orchestra perform in Wakayama, going on to China. Jim Caswell, president of Charger Orchestra Booster Club. .
1986		25 TH ANNIVERSARY
		<u>Mayors: Tabita & Payne Committee chairs: Takagi & Luttrell</u>
	March	West High School Madrigal Singers (12), led by Bob Petker, visit Wakayama.
	March-April	Wakayama Children's Choir and Nakanuma Ballet visit Bakersfield. They perform 2 concerts for Bakersfield City and Kern County schools during the day, as well as an evening concert open to the public. They are joined by the West High School Madrigal singers and the Kern County Honor Chorus. Three elementary Schools host choir and ballet visit to Pioneer Village.
1987	April	101 members from Norris Junior High and Fruitvale Junior High orchestra and chorus perform in Wakayama. Leaders?
	Summer	members of Wakayama Kendo team visit Bakersfield and stay in private homes.
	November	25 th Anniversary trip to Wakayama and on to Seoul, South Korea: Mayor Payne & 45 others visit Wakayama & celebrate the 400 th Anniversary of Wakayama Castle
1988		<u>Committee chairs: Sugai & Luttrell</u>
	March	125 students & 10 adults visit Bakersfield for the 1 st Summer Study group
	April	English teacher from Bakersfield comes to work at Wakayama Commercial High School. Bakersfield Standard Junior High group of 10 visits Wakayama.
	September	26 people representing Wakayama Sister City Committee visit Bakersfield. Celebration is held at Rio Bravo Tennis Club.
	November	Wakayama Sister City Formal Visit group travels to Bakersfield, with official invitation to Wakayama's 100 th anniversary celebration.
1989		<u>Mayors: Tabita & Clarence Medders; Committee chairs: Sugai & Jim Caswell</u>
	March	Wakayama Children's Choir and Nakanuma Ballet visit and perform in Bakersfield. Any details?
	July	Bakersfield participates in the 100 th Anniversary of Wakayama becoming a city.

1990	August	English teacher from Bakersfield (Karen Gurule) comes to work at Wakayama Commercial High School.
	August	Second Summer Cultural Study Group of 92 people (9 adults) visits Bakersfield.
	October	14 government officials from Wakayama visit Bakersfield, where Mayor Clarence Medders and other city officials entertain them.
		<u>Committee Chairs: Dr. Nobutada Iwahashi & Caswell</u>
	March	Wakayama Kendo group (25 students) visit Bakersfield.
	June	Cathi Chrisco & 3 other teachers observe Wakayama schools
	July	Mayor Medders of Bakersfield leads a delegation of 4 to "Municipal Government International Forum."
	October	16 officials from Wakayama Prefecture visit Bakersfield.
		Group of Wakayama city planners visit Bakersfield.
		30 TH ANNIVERSARY
1991		<u>Committee chairs: Iwahashi & Urner (3)</u>
	February	Mayor Tabita of Wakayama and delegation visit Bakersfield. Mayor Medders hosts luncheon at Red Lion Inn.
	August	English teacher from Bakersfield (Timothy?) comes to work at Wakayama Commercial High School.
	November	<u>Mayor Tabita of Wakayama and delegation visit Bakersfield.</u>
1992	March	2 Wakayama teachers and 10 students (winners of 1 st & 2 nd recitation contest) visit Bakersfield. They visit Fruitvale, Rosedale North, and Thompson Junior High.
	April	31 city officials visit Wakayama to celebrate the 30 th anniversary.
	May	270 people from Wakayama visit Bakersfield to participate in the Wakamatsuri to celebrate the 30 th anniversary of Sister City relations. They are joined by many City officials and Sister City members from Bakersfield, as well as school groups. The Mikoshi Shrine, carried in the parade, is presented to the city of Bakersfield as a gift. In return Mayor Medders presents Wakayama with a saddle and Buck Owens gives a red, white, and blue guitar. The Mayor's International Dinner is held at the Civic Auditorium. 500 people attend.
	August	12 judo athletes, led by Jim Camarillo, visit Wakayama
	November	Mayor Tabita, Dr. Iwahashi, Mr. Ishikata, and 4 councilmen visit to attend the opening of ANA's International Flight Training Academy in Bakersfield. BSCPC hosts dinner for pilot trainees.
		<u>Mayors: Tabita & Bob Price</u>
	March	2 teachers (Yoshinari Hosada and Hironobu Tsujinaka) and 5 students (English recitation winners) from Wakayama visit Bakersfield. (3 rd group)
1993	April	Through efforts of Phil Niederauer, a Kiwanis Club is chartered in Wakayama, and a group of Bakersfield Kiwanis visit Wakayama for the ceremony.
	August	40 students and 7 chaperones, led by Dr. Nobutada Iwahashi, visit for the 4 th Summer Cultural Study visit. (Note the 3 rd group visited Richmond, Canada instead.)
		<u>Committee chairs: Iwahashi & Cathi Chrisco</u>
	March	5 English recitation winners and chaperone(s) visit Bakersfield. (4 th group)
1994	March –April	Wakayama Children's Choir and Nakanuma Ballet visit Bakersfield, after

	having performed at Carnegie Hall. They give a joint concert with the Bakersfield Youth Symphony and the Civic Dance company on April 1 at Harvey Auditorium.
May	10 Wakayama city officials and councilmen visit Bakersfield with invitation to the Resort Expo
July	49 city officials, led by Mayor Price, visit Wakayama and participate in Resort Expo. The Bakersfield Youth Symphony, led by Don Gill, performs at the Expo.
August	29 members of the Sister City committee visit Wakayama and attend International Junior High Friendship meeting. The group of 5 junior high students are Amanda Byrd, Julie Barrios, Allyson Palla, Jerrod Hicks, and Rex Phinney. Their leaders are Cathi Chrisco and Mary Alice Kessinger.
August	Jon Kazumi Kada is killed in an auto accident
August	Judo team visits Wakayama
1995	<u>Mayors: Ozaki & Price</u>
March	5 student recitation winners and 2 teachers (Mr. Kazuaki Tsuyama and Ms. Toshimi Miura) visit Bakersfield. (5 th group)
March	Wakaura soccer team, led by manager Hidetoshi Nishikawa, visits Bakersfield. (24 students and 12 chaperones.)
August	46 students and 11 adult chaperones, led by Dr. Iwahashi, visit Bakersfield for the 5 th Summer Study group.
August	Kaz Takaguchi, Tasuko Takagaki, Hideaki Hayashi and Katsumo Onishi visit Bakersfield to make a presentation at CSUB in memory of Jon Kada, an exchange teacher killed in a bicycle/car accident in Wakayama.
1996	35 TH ANNIVERSARY
February	Former Sister City committee president David Uner visits Wakayama, where he is presented with a Cultural Service Award by the City of Wakayama. George Ogden accompanied Uner on the visit.
March	Wakayama Children's Choir and Nakanuma Ballet visit Bakersfield and present 3 Performances, two at the Civic Auditorium attended by over 4,000 students, and one at Fruitvale Junior High.
March	5 student recitation winners and their teacher visit Bakersfield (6 th group).
July	Six YMCA reps, led by Dr. Joe Anderson, visit Wakayama
August	45 students and 10 adults, led by H. Hayashi, visit Bakersfield for the annual Summer Cultural Study visit. (6 th visit).
August	Judo team (10) travels to Wakayama
1997	<u>Committee chairs: Iwahashi & Dr. Joe Anderson</u>
March	5 English recitation winners & their teacher visit Bakersfield (7 th visit).
April	Panama-Buena Vista Junior Highs Select Choir visit Wakayama and participate In a joint concert with groups from Wakayama and Wakayama's Korean sister city of Jeju. Leader of group was Panama schools superintendent Doug Miller.
August	50 students and 5 adults from Wakayama visit Bakersfield for the annual Cultural Study visit (7 th visit).

1998	September	Mayor Bob Price, Dave Urner, and Leland Luttrell lead a group of 32 civic and Sister City representatives on a visit to Wakayama, and then go on to Cixi, China.
	December	Sister City Youth Connections builds a float for the Bakersfield Christmas Parade, composed of giant greeting cards from our 3 Sister Cities.
		<u>Mayors: Tabita (2) & Price</u>
	February	Rosedale Middle School chorus and band, led by Jewel Benjamin and Sal Panelli, visit Wakayama and perform at the Wakayama Civic Auditorium with the Wakayama Children's Choir. (54 chorus members; 42 band members, 32 adults.) They perform with the Nisshin Wind Band and the Wakayama youth concert band.
	March	4 Wakayama English recitation winners and 2 teachers (T. Nishioka and H. Nakao) visit Bakersfield. Students stayed in homes of teachers at Rosedale Middle School and visited that school, as well as Independence Elementary and Centennial High School. (8 th visit).
	August	44 Wakayama students and 5 chaperones paid their annual Summer Cultural Study visit to Bakersfield. Homestays for all students. (8 th visit) The group is led by Dr. Nobutada Iwahashi, who is honored for his contributions to the Wakayama-Bakersfield Sister City relationship by Mayor Price, who names August 10, 1998, Dr. Iwahashi Day and presents him with the key to the city of Bakersfield.
1999	October	8 city officials and 18 members of the Sister City committee visit Bakersfield to participate in Bakersfield's 100 th anniversary celebration. Highlights of the visit include home visits, 4 traditional tea ceremonies presented at the Beale Library by a group led by Mr. Shouichi Senga, a Halloween Party at the Stone's residence, and the Mayor's Dinner at the Dante Italian Heritage Hall
	November	Mr. Yoichi Terada of the Wakayama planning commission and Mrs. Takako Yamamoto of the Wakayama board of education visit Bakersfield, where they spend much of one day at Mount Vernon School and also meet with city officials
	March	5 English recitation winners & their teacher visit Bakersfield (9 th group)
2000	August	28 students and 3 chaperones (Henry Hayashi, Hideki Iwahashi, and Masako Ohto) pay their annual Summer Cultural Study Visit to Bakersfield. The chaperones visited Mrs. Adeline Frasch while in Bakersfield. (9 th visit).
		<u>Mayors: Tabita & Harvey L. Hall Committee chairs: Iwahashi & George Ogden</u>
	March	5 Wakayama English Recitation Contets winners and their chaperone visit. (10 th group)
2001	May	A delegation of 23 people led by Mayor Takuso Tabita visit Bakersfield. The delegation consists of the Mayor's group of 12 and 11 city councilmen. All are entertained at the Mayor's Dinner at the Bakersfield Country Club.
	August	31 students and 3 adult chaperones visit for 10 th Summer Cultural Study Visit.
	November	22 Bakersfield Sister City members, led by Dave Urner, visit Wakayama.
2002		40 TH ANNIVERSARY
	March	5 English recitation students & their teacher visit Bakersfield (11 th group).
	August	34 students and 2 chaperones (Hideaki Hayashi and Keiko Takeda) pay their annual Summer Cultural Study Visit to Bakersfield. (11 th visit)
2002		<u>Mayors: Ohashi & Hall</u>
	February	46 Freedom Middle School band and choir members and 18 adults visit

		Wakayama, where the group performs with the Wakayama Children's Choir and Fukko Junior High School band at a concert commemorating the 40 th Anniversary of the Bakersfield/Wakayama Sister City relationship. Leaders of the group were Sal and Jewel Panelli.
	March	4 English recitation students & their teacher visit Bakersfield (12 th group)
	April	80 members of the Wakayama Children's Choir, directed by Haruhiko Numamaru, visit Bakersfield and perform twice for school children. In the evening of April 2, they present a joint concert with the Liberty High School Chorale at the Bakersfield Convention Center. Homestays are provided by the LHS choir members. City officials & Sister City Committee members also visit to commemorate 40 th Anniversary.
	April 25-May 7	Bakersfield group of ____, led by BSCPC President George Ogden, visits Wakayama and Deputy Mayor Mark Salvaggio participates in the Hana Ippai Festival (an international flower show, hosted this year by Wakayama). After leaving Wakayama, the group continues on to Beijing, Shanghai, and Cixi, China.
	August	24 students & 3 adults come to Bakersfield for 12 th Summer Cultural Study Visit.
	October 6-8	Delegation of ____ city officials and Sister City Committee members from Wakayama visit Bakersfield to celebrate the 40 th Anniversary of the sister city relationship. Highlights of the visit include home visits, attending a Lakers Basketball game at the Rabobank Arena, planting a tree at Centennial Park and an azalea at City Hall, and the Mayor's Dinner at the Sheraton Four-Points Hotel.
2003		<u>Committee chairs: Iwahashi & Frank Tripicchio</u>
	February	Bakersfield Sister City Committee members visit Wakayama.
	March	No English recitation students visit due to SARs outbreak.
	June	5 Bakersfield teachers visit Wakayama as part of a teacher exchange program. Leader of the group is Ms. Debbie Verdugo.
	August	24 students and 2 adults visit as part of the Summer Cultural Study program. (13 th visit)
	October	Wakayama Mayor Kenichi Ohashi, his wife, and 11 city officials visit Bakersfield and are feted at a gala dinner at the Petroleum Club.
2004		<u>Committee chairs: Iwahashi & Dr. Stanley Eugene Clark</u>
	March	10 English Recitation Contest winners (13 th & 14 th groups), 4 chaperones and 3 exchange teachers visit Bakersfield.
	March	Vice-chairman of the Sister City Committee, Mr. Terada, presents a lecture on Japanese history during classes at California State College—Bakersfield branch, and Bakersfield Junior College
	May	Sister City Committee President Frank Tripicchio visits Wakayama.
	August	11 students led by Hiroyoshi Akedo visit as part of the annual Summer Cultural Study program. (14 th visit)
2005	March	5 English Recitation Contest winners and Mr. Hironobu Tsujinaka visit Bakersfield. (15 th group)
	June	10 members of Bakersfield Sister City Youth Connections and 5 adults, led by Ms. Susan Stone, visit Wakayama on a Cultural Study visit.

2006	August	18 students, led by Yoshiko Kitagawa and Yoshi Takaoka visit Bakersfield as part of the Summer Cultural Study program. (15 th group)
	December	Bakersfield Sister City Youth Connections decorates a Christmas tree for the Kern County Museum, including origami cranes, Japanese dolls, and temari balls in the design.
	45 TH ANNIVERSARY	
	March	5 Wakayama English Recitation Contest winners and teacher Mie Nakanishi visit Bakersfield. (16 th group)
2007	August	26 students, led by Hiroyoshi Akedo and Yoshiko Kitagawa visit Bakersfield as part of the annual Summer Cultural Study program. Highlights of the visit include a trip to Sequoia National Park by the adults and a picnic for all hosted by the Highland High Band Boosters. (16 th visit)
	October	45 th Anniversary visit to Bakersfield by 2 groups from Wakayama: city officials led by Mayor Ohashi, and Sister City Committee members led by Dr. Iwahashi. Highlights of the visit include a Halloween Party at Dave Urner's home, home visits for all, and the Mayor's Dinner at the Bakersfield Country Club, which was also attended by the Japanese Consul from San Francisco.
	November	Leland Luttrell visits Wakayama, where he is presented with a Cultural Service Award by the City of Wakayama. Dave Urner accompanied Luttrell on the visit.
	March	5 Wakayama English Recitation Contest winners and chaperone Keiko Takeda visit Bakersfield. (17 th group)
2008	April	35 members of Bakersfield's Highland High concert band and 52 adults visit Wakayama, where the band performs 3 concerts. In addition, Mayor Harvey L. Hall pays an official visit to the City of Wakayama to celebrate 45 th Anniversary.
	August	18 students, led by Mr. Hideaki Hayashi, pay a visit to Bakersfield as part of the annual Summer Cultural Study Program. Mr. Hayashi is honored by Mayor Hall who proclaims August 1-7, 2007 to be Henry Hayashi Week in Bakersfield. (17 th visit)
	March	English Recitation students visit Bakersfield: 5 students and Ms. Naoko Yamamoto (18 th group)
	June	10 members of Liberty High School's Sister City Youth Connections and chaperones Sue Stone & Vickie Murray visit Wakayama for 5 days.
2009	August	15 students and two adults (Akedo & Shima) visit Bakersfield for the 18 th Summer Cultural Study Visit.
	March	10 English Recitation students and their chaperones Dr. Nobutada Iwahashi and Mr. Henry Hayashi visit Bakersfield. (19 th group)
	August	8 students, led by Mr. Hiroyoshi Akedo pay a visit to Bakersfield as part of the annual Summer Cultural Study Program. (19 th group)
	Summer	Steven Murray attends Japanese language school at the Wakayama YMCA.
2010	March	10 English Recitation students and their chaperones Mr. Henry Hayashi and Mrs. Emi Sakai visit Bakersfield (20 th group).
	May	A delegation of 23 representing Bakersfield Sister City and the City of Bakersfield visit Wakayama to kick off the 50 th Anniversary Celebration. The delegates participate in the Wakamatsuri, a local Shinto festival.