



Akiko Agishi
Founder/President

Hope you are enjoying the beautiful summer!

On behalf of Aurora Board of Directors, we are very happy to report that we have successfully completed all the 5 Winter - Spring Programs: (1) the 8th Japanese Film screening of "The Harimaya Bridge" on Feb.28, (2) our first Japan trip with our Aurora Culture Class participants from April 8th for 9 days, (3) the 5th Charity golf classic on May 24, (4) the 7th Annual USA High School Japanese Speech Contest on May 29, and (5) the 6th Benefit Cruise on the Crystal Serenity (Barcelona - Athens) from June 8 for 12 days.

The recipients of the Japanese language Scholarships and the Challenge Grant have been selected, as well as the winner of the Speech Contest and they will all go to Japan and have wonderful challenges this year. We are looking forward to meeting them and hearing their reports of their Japan trips and projects at our Fall Award Dinner Gala on Friday, October 29th.

Finally, we are delighted to report that our Fall Benefit concert will be held with Mr. Kei Oglu, renowned sing/songwriter from Japan, on Saturday, October 30th. Hope you will be able to attend! I'm sure we'll all have a great time.

We are still facing difficult economic times all over the world, and it makes us feel even more grateful to all our loyal supporters and sponsors. Without you, none of our programs would be possible. (^o^)



Darrell Miho, Photographer and Writer, California. Challenge Grant Recipient

A native of Southern California, Darrell Miho is a professional photographer and writer specializing in people, sports, travel and special events. His photography career started in 1984 as a freshman in college at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where he worked for the Mustang Daily and Volleyball Monthly. After college, his career flourished and his list of clients include Sports Illustrated, Golf Digest and the New York Times.

Miho extends his love for taking pictures to the community by donating his services to worthy causes. Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches, the Asian Pacific Women's Center and Project by Project are just a few of the many charitable organizations Miho supports on a regular basis. In the spring of 2007, he decided it was time to become more socially responsible and set out to find a project that went beyond the local community and would combine his two passions – being creative and helping others. 18 months later, that project became clear – document the stories of atomic bomb survivors.

As a third generation Japanese American, whose paternal grandfather emigrated from Hiroshima, it was the perfect project that would allow him to take photos, write stories, document history, explore his Japanese heritage and quite literally, save the world.

The goal of his dream project is to create a traveling exhibit of portraits and multimedia presentations to educate future generations about the devastating effects that nuclear weapons have on people's lives and to spread the hibakusha's message – their hope for peace.

The more stories he hears, the more he understands the need for them to be told. The more people understand about the affects of nuclear weapons on people's lives, the more likely they will not repeat the mistakes of the past. By remembering the past, he hopes to save the future of the world we live in.

Scholarship Awardees



Noah Miles, JLSF Scholarship recipient

As a teenager in Kansas City, Noah became fascinated with Japanese culture because of the unique history and style of Buddhism in Japan. Noah earned a B.A. in Japanese Language at the University of Iowa in 2005. For his undergraduate honor's thesis, Noah received a Freeman Foundation Research Grant to study the unique situation of American Baseball players playing in Japan, at the sports archive in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Tokyo. In 2007, he earned an M.A. from the University of Iowa. For this degree, he studied for one summer in Yokohama at the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies.

While in Iowa, Noah became acquainted with the poet Yoshimasu Gozo through the University of Iowa's International Writing Program and he wrote a series of translations of Gozo's poetry about America for this thesis.

Noah has started two Japanese language programs in East Texas Since 2007, the first at the University of Texas at Tyler, and the second at Tyler Junior College. He has led students to Japan on two travel study courses, started an anime club, and is currently teaching first and second year Japanese. With the Japanese Language Scholarship, Noah will travel to Akita University in Tohoku in order to solidify a study abroad agreement with UT Tyler. He will meet with faculty, create promotional material, and experience the culture of Northern Japan. For Tyler Junior College, Noah will meet with representatives from two Japanese Junior Colleges in Tyler's sister city, Yachiyo, in Chiba-ken, to encourage Japanese students to study abroad in East Texas.



Jason Packman, Torrance, California. JLSF Scholarship recipient

Jason Packman has been involved in promoting US-Japan relations through language education throughout his adult life. He taught English in elementary and junior high schools in Ojiya, Niigata as a participant on the JET program. He then spent four years teaching English at elementary schools in Tokyo. He has also spent time as the Education Intern at the Japan Society at San Diego and Tijuana, where he worked on promoting Japanese language programs in San Diego. He is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Linguistics, specializing in Applied Linguistics, at San Diego State University, where he also teaches a

freshman composition class for international students.

With his JLSF scholarship, Jason plans to study Japanese as a Second Language (JSL) programs in Yokohama. Jason hopes to better understand the specific kind of language people living in Japan feel is necessary to learn in a classroom environment through his observations of these classes and interactions with their students and teachers. He also wants to better understand how non-linguistic forms of communication are taught in JSL classrooms, since mastering these forms of communication are especially important for the Japanese language learner who hopes to live in Japan. He hopes that this will help teachers and students in the United States to achieve their goals to teach and acquire strong and useful communicative skills in Japanese. San Diego and Yokohama are also sister cities, and he hopes his study will contribute to strengthening connections between the two cities in general, and the Japanese as a Second/Foreign Language education communities in particular. Jason Packman would like to thank Dr. Akiko Agishi, the Aurora JLSF Board of Directors, and the entire Aurora Foundation community for awarding me this great honor.

第 12 回オーロラ日本語奨学金基金ベネフィットコンサート&アワードディナー

Friday, October 29th, 2010 at 5:00 PM

Aurora 12th Anniversary

Benefit Award Dinner & Gala/Auction

Kyoto Grand Hotel & Garden

120 S. Los Angeles St., Los Angeles, CA 90012



Saturday, October 30th, 2010 at 6:00 PM

Doors open at 5:00PM

(Before the concert, you can enjoy raffle and silent auction and Aurora Booth)

KEI OGLA Benefit Concert in LA

El Camino College Marsee Auditorium

16007 Crenshaw Blvd. Torrance, CA 90506

The 7th Annual Aurora Japanese Language Scholarship Foundation All-USA High School Japanese Speech Contest Saturday, May 29, 2010



Freda Yoshioka, California Association of Japanese Language Teachers President and Judge

As a life-long learner of Japanese language, I recognize the importance of speech contests, and in particular, the opportunities provided by the Aurora Foundation's annual contest. First of all, the Aurora Japanese Language Scholarship Foundation contest is the only national contest for American high school students. In turn, this contest supplies an American high school contestant for the international contest in Japan. Whether or not students win this contest, participation itself has tremendous value, for it compels students to distill their ideas into a foreign language and communicate them effectively. Finally, the

Aurora speech contest is an amazing showcase of the efforts of Japanese language students and teachers, assembling on one glorious day the results of continuous effort and bravery. This contest helps spur students to even higher language proficiency and the wonderful fruits that result, not to mention the friendships and connections formed. This year's contestants demonstrated a range of talents including fluency of delivery, creativity, and sensitivity to Japanese culture. One thing that I really appreciate about this contest is that unique and sincere efforts are recognized. As long as the message comes from the heart, the speech is a winner. Congratulations to all fifteen participants!

Shandi Ziroki, North Wood High School, Irvine, California. 2010 Aurora All-USA High School Japanese Speech Contest Winner

「本当の理由」

僕の日本語を勉強するきっかけは「暴走族」になりたかったからだ。友人がすすめてくれたビデオに出ていたロックバンドの「氣志團」に憧れ、彼らの歌に共感できた僕は、日本へ行って暴走族になるために一生懸命勉強した。するとそれまで僕の周りにいた不良の仲間とだんだん付き合わなくなり、日本人の仲間が増えてきた。検定試験にも合格できた。日本語の勉強が僕を闇の中から救い出してくれたのだ。

“The Real Reason”

My speech is about why I started learning Japanese. It talks about how I used to be before taking the class. I talk about how I used to be a bad kid and what me and my friends used to do. Then one of my friends show me a music video for this rock band and that's where I got the motivation to study Japanese. I then explain how after I began classes I started changing. I stopped hanging out with bad kids and found some good, quite, friends. In the end I turned my life around completely. And that is the summary of my speech.



8th Screening of Japanese Film the "Harimaya Bridge" Sunday, Feb. 28, 2010

Chako Ryu, 映画上映実行委員長 Committee Chair

「今映画上映実行委員長の役を終えて」

オーロラの奨学金基金もお蔭様で12年目にはいり、春の映画上映も無事終わりました。今年の映画上映もふたを開けてみるまで皆様の反応が見えません。準備の間中ドキドキしながら当日を迎えました。思ったより多くの方を劇場に迎えることができ、終わったときの感想が好評だったとわかりほっとしました。“はりまや橋”はオーロラ基金のチャリティー・グラント受賞者の脚本、監督になるもので、日本の高知が舞台でしたが、土地の人の温かさ、国を超えた愛など新鮮な感覚で捕らえられており、見る人の心をうつものがありました。オーロラ基金としてどんな映画を上映すれば皆様に喜んでいただけるか、またその映画を通して日本というものを存分に理解していただけるか、これからは私達オーロラ基金のスタッフ一同がんばってまいります。皆様の絶大なご支援、ご協力をこころから感謝いたしております。



Aurora the 1st year's Culture and Language program

The Aurora Foundation offered Japan “Culture Exploration” trip on April 8-17, 2010!

Yoko Pusavat, Director, Culture and Language Program & 2010 Trip Coordinator

The Japanese Language and Culture Program offered ten “Japanese culture” class sessions from April 2009 to March 2010. After completing the program, we celebrated our participant's graduation by traveling to Japan. The first “culture and language program” and the first “culture exploration” trip brought immeasurable joy of learning and experiencing essence of Japanese culture to all participants.

What made this traveling so memorable? Sightseeing, foods, new experiences, and much more. Companionship of 11 traveling people enhanced our experiences beyond expectation. We traveled crisscross six major cities by train most of the time. We meditate in a Zen temple and ate simple asagayu (rice porridge) in Kyoto, enjoyed Miyako Odori at Gion, home-stayed and made new friends in Nara, stayed in a 200 year old house in Shirakawago, where we were served homegrown rice and homemade miso, produced hand-made rice paper and created an artistic uchiwa of our own with our hand-made paper in Gokayama, one of the world heritage sites, and enjoyed day and night outings in Tokyo. Sakura went into full bloom during our visit, as if it had been waiting for us. We were welcomed by people and nature of Japan. Unforgettable trip and experience it was indeed!



The 5th Aurora Charity Golf Classic, Auction & Award Dinner on Monday, May 24, at California Country Club in Whittier

Akiko Agishi, President, Aurora Foundation

Thanks to Thomas Iino, Nancy Matsui & Kurt Miyamoto (co-chairs of the event) as well as the committee members, players & sponsors, 78 players joined us and enjoyed golf on a beautiful sunny day. Mr. Iino stated, "This tournament was started in 2006 as a way to bring together leaders for the Japanese, American and Japanese American corporate and civic sectors together in an informal setting. The need for bridging in this day and age is vitally important. I am extremely pleased with the community's support, and it is a tribute to the mission and commitment of the Aurora Japanese Language Scholarship Foundation."

From Left :
Kurt Miyamoto,
Hiro Watanabe,
Akiko Agishi,
Nancy Matsui



Aurora Award Dinner & Concert Information

Friday, October 29, 2010 at 5:00pm

Aurora 12th Anniversary Celebration & Award Dinner/Auction

Kyoto Grand Hotel & Gardens

オーロラベネフィット・アワードディナー / オークション

日時: 2010年10月29日(金)午後5時

場所: 京都グランドホテル & ガーデン **\$100**

お申込み: オーロラファンデーションまで

Tel: (323) 882-6545 Fax: (323) 969-9425

Saturday, October 30, 2010 at 6:00pm

Kei Ogla Aurora Benefit Concert

El Camino College Marsee Auditorium

小椋 佳 / オーロラベネフィット・コンサート

日時: 2010年10月30日(土)午後5時開場、6時開演
(午後5時よりロビーにてラッフル、サイレントオークション開催)

場所: エルカミーノ・カレッジ マーシーオーディトリウム

\$100, \$75, \$55, \$35



Message from Kei Ogla:

ロサンゼルスの皆様。小椋佳です。
初めてのロサンゼルスでのコンサート、今から楽しみにしています。
ご当地アメリカは僕が40年程前に、「小椋佳」として最初のアルバムを発表した頃に数年過ごした場所でもあります。今回のコンサートでは、在米当時、旅をしながら作った作品や、66歳になった自分が今感じていること、考えていることを詩にした作品など、新旧織り交ぜて、お届けする予定です。
会場にお運びいただいた皆様が、ほんの一時日常を忘れる時間を過ごしていただければと思います。
それではコンサート会場でお会いしましょう。

Hello, Los Angeles.

I have spent a few years in the USA about 40 years ago when I made my first album as Kei Ogla.

As I traveled around the USA, I wrote several songs. I will sing those songs along with my new ones. I hope my concert will bring you a joyful time. I look forward to seeing you all in Los Angeles!

Kei Ogla Profile:

小椋佳 (おぐらけい) / 作詩・作曲家

1944年東京・上野生まれ。1967年東京大学卒業後、日本勧業銀行(現みずほ銀行)入行。同行に約四半世紀勤務、浜松支店長・本店財務サービス部長等を経て1993年退職。1994年東京大学法学部に再入学。文学部思想文化学科に進み、哲学専攻にて2000年大学院修士号取得。この間、1971年自らの作詩作曲による初LPアルバム「青春・砂漠の少年」発表。3作目のアルバム「彷徨」は100万枚のセールスを突破。以来、ソングライターとして多数のアーティストへ作品を提供。「シクラメンのかほり」「俺たちの旅」「夢芝居」「愛しき日々」「愛燦燦」等数多くのヒット作品があり、日本レコード大賞を始め数々の賞を受賞。作詩作曲・歌手活動の他、執筆活動や舞台創造も重ねる。少年少女たちの演じる音楽劇「アルゴ」や、邦楽界の歌い手たちを起用しての新歌唱舞台「ぶんざ」「一休宗純物語」の公演がその代表。1998年以降、歌と語らいで綴る公演を「歌談の会」と称し、年間を通して全国各地にて開催中。2007年3月、西本智実&洗足学園音楽大学オーケストラをバックに「未熟の晩鐘シンフォニーコンサート」、同年12月、円光寺雅彦&東京フィルハーモニー交響楽団をバックに「シンフォニック・コンサート」を行う。2010年、デビュー40周年を記念して、『小椋佳コンサートツアー2010「邂逅」KAIKO～歌創り40年、旅途上。～』を全国各地にて開催中。

Kei Ogla is a singer, songwriter, and composer, and has been one of the most well known artists in Japan. Ogla was born in the Ueno district of Tokyo in 1944. He graduated from University of Tokyo in 1967 and started working for Nihon Kangyo Bank (Mizuho Bank). In his 25 years at the bank, he became a branch manager at the Hamamatsu branch and was Financial Service Manager at the bank headquarters. He retired from the bank in 1993 and got accepted into University of Tokyo again to study Philosophy and received his Masters degree in 2000. All during his bank and academic years, Ogla also was very active in his music career. His first major LP album was released in 1971. His third album, "Samayoi" (1972), sold over a million records. Ogla shared his compositions with top popular musicians in Japan, and many of the songs he wrote have become truly iconic in Japanese music history, including such songs as: "Shikuramen no Kaori," "Oretachi no Tabi," "Yume Shibai," "Itoshiki Hibi," and "Ai Sansanto."

Mr. Ogla has received numerous music awards for his lyrics as well as his compositions, including Japan's top music award, the Japan Record Award. Ogla has been passionate about writing stage musicals, and his shows "Algo," "Bunza," and "Ikyu Soujyun Story" were well received and highly acclaimed by wide range of audiences. 2010 is his 40th anniversary of Ogla music career, and his anniversary tour, "Kaiko, Tabi Tojyo" is touring all over Japan now.

Japanese Language Scholarship Foundation (DBA: Aurora Foundation), 501(c)(3), EIN: 31-1639219

ディナー、コンサートによる収益金はオーロラ奨学金基金へ寄付されます。 Tel: 323-882-6545

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The 6th Aurora Benefit Cruise on the Crystal Serenity (Barcelona to Athens) June 6-18 (12 days)

Akiko Agishi, President, Aurora Foundation

This year, 18 Aurora members and friends joined the cruise (12 were from Japan), and had a wonderful trip through Monte Carlo, Monaco; Porto Venere, Italy; Rome; Sorrento; Taormina/Sisily; Kusadasi, Turkey; and Mykonos, Greece. Thanks to Shogun Millennium, Crystal Cruises and participants, Aurora will receive a donation of over \$8,000 which will be used for the Scholarship funds. 2011 Aurora Cruise will be from San Francisco, Canada to Alaska for 12days. (May 9th -21th) Please join us!



2010 Aurora Schedule & Activities

Feb. 28 (Sun.)

The 8th Screening of a Japanese Film
"Hariyama-Bridge"
at Aratani Japan America Theatre



Jun. 6-Jun.18

The 6th Aurora Benefit Cruises
With Crystal Serenity
Barcelona to Athens



Mar. 14 (Sun.)

Cherry Blossom
Lunch Gathering
at Balboa Lake Park
in Encino



Jul. 9 (Fri.)

Annual President Luncheon
at DELPHINE
in W. Hollywood Hotel, Hollywood



Apr. 8-Apr. 17

Culture and Language Programs (10 Times)
and Japan Trip directed by Ms. Yoko Pusavat



Oct. 29 (Fri.)

Aurora 12th Anniversary Benefit
Award Dinner & Gala/Auction
at the Kyoto Grand Hotel & Gardens
at 5PM in Little Tokyo



May. 24 (Mon.)

The 5th Aurora Charity Golf Classic
Auction & Award Dinner
at California Country Club in Whittier



Oct. 30 (Sat.)

Aurora Benefit Concert with
renowned artist from Japan: KEI OGLA
at El Camino College Marsee Auditorium



May. 29 (Sat.)

The 7th All-USA High School Japanese Speech Contest

at Hitachi Chemical
Research Center
Lecture Hall
at UC Irvine



Nov. 19-Nov. 21

A.C.T.F.L.
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in Boston

Dec. 12 (Sun.)

Aurora Christmas Gathering & General Meeting At Akemi & Yuichiro
Sakurai home at Diamond Bar



photo:
2009
at Dr. Mera's home
in Malibu

Aurora News Committee Members: Jeff Yamazaki, Arika Yanaka, Kazuto Akimoto and Akiko Agishi

Photo by Mizuki Asakura, Kazuya Kimura, Ken Matsui, Hiroshi Sumiyama

For more information, including sponsorship, volunteer opportunities, Aurora Club membership, and Aurora activities, please contact **the Aurora Foundation**: Tel:(323) 882-6545 • Fax:(323) 969-9425
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