



**Bloomington Sister City Organization**  
**1800 West Old Shakopee Road**  
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www.bloomington-izumi.org

Since 1993, promoting international understanding through the exchange of people, information and ideas.

January-June, 2017

**Founding Members:** Bloomington Chamber of Commerce • Bloomington Convention & Visitors Bureau • City of Bloomington • Kodo & Toshi Kawamura • Larkin Hoffman Daly & Lindgren Ltd. • Normandale Japanese Garden Committee • Wells Fargo, Bloomington Branch • Radisson Hotel South & Plaza Towers • Dale & Sondra Simonson • Thermo King Corporation

## ***Travel as a part of the Official Sister City Student Delegation!***

*Experience the trip of a lifetime! The Bloomington Sister City Organization (BSCO) cordially invites you to travel to Bloomington's Sister City of Izumi City, Japan as part of the 2017 Student Delegation!*

***Trip Dates: June 14 - June 28, 2017***

***Applications are available on BSCO's website.***

***Applications are due by March 1, 2017***

***Estimated Cost: \$2,600 (includes airfare, meals, and lodging)***

*You are not required to be a Japanese language student. Students will stay with host families and participate in guided tours of Izumi City. Eligible students must be living, working, or attending school in Bloomington.*

*BSCO will select 10 students to participate in this exchange, who will be accompanied by two adult chaperones selected by the BSCO.*



***Cost of this trip includes airfare, chaperone fees, and BSCO administration fees. Final pricing may be subject to change. The trip price does not include personal expenses such as souvenirs, occasional meals, or expenses incurred while with the participant's host family.***

***All group participants should consider purchasing travel insurance. BSCO is not acting as a travel agent for this trip, and will not be responsible for delays and/or cancellations due to events outside the control of BSCO. The group will be accompanied in Japan by an experienced chaperone fluent in English and Japanese along with city guides and interpreters.***

**For more information and applications, visit <http://www.bloomington-izumi.org/>**





**Joe Waldoch  
President, BSCO**

Joe is a life-long Bloomington resident. He has been involved in the Normandale Japanese Garden since he was a youth following in the footsteps of his parents and uncle. The Normandale Japanese Garden Committee is one of the founding members of BSCO. He serves on the Normandale Foundation Board. In his past volunteer work, he directed the BAA soccer program and was a Boy Scout leader. Joe has been active in BSCO since 2009. He has served as a host family and chaperoned a student delegation to Izumi City in 2013.

**Board Members**

- Rod England, *Treasurer*
- Ben Jourdan, *Student Representative*
- Mike Migliacio, *Vice President*
- Dave Murphy, *Marathon Coordinator*
- Billy Secord
- Nora Smith
- TJ Souphaphone
- Luminita Vollmer
- Kyle Wagner, *Vice President*
- Joe Waldoch - *Normandale College & Japanese Garden Committee Representative, President*

## Calendar of Events

Saturday, February 18, 2017, 8:30 - 3:30 pm: JASM J-Quiz & Activities

Sunday, February 19, 2017: Senshu International Marathon

BSCO Board Meetings

*Bloomington Civic Plaza*

*1800 W. Old Shakopee Road*

*6 - 7:30 pm, Dakota Conference Room*

Tuesday, January 3

Tuesday, February 7

Tuesday, March 7

Tuesday, April 4

Tuesday, May 2

Tuesday, June 6

BSCO Executive Meetings

*Bloomington Civic Plaza*

*1800 W. Old Shakopee Road*

*6 - 7 pm, Baillif Conference Room*

Tuesday, January 17

Tuesday, February 21

Tuesday, March 21

Tuesday, April 18

Tuesday, May 16

Tuesday, June 20

### ARE YOU INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING TO SERVE ON THE BSCO BOARD?

BSCO is currently seeking people from the community to serve on the Board of Directors. BSCO is currently looking for people with a background in accounting, fundraising, or leadership and an interest in Japanese culture. Contact BSCO for more information. (Contact information listed on Page 1.) Also, student board member applications are welcome.

To locate the board member application, please visit:

<http://www.bloomington-izumi.org/bsco-board-members>

### In Memoriam

BSCO recognizes the passing of two Bloomington citizens who were early supporters of the organization and continued their participation throughout the years.

**Jack Carlson** was known around town as “Mr. Bloomington”. Along with BSCO, Mr. Carlson was involved in Rotary Club, Normandale Japanese Garden Committee, Bloomington Chamber Board of Directors, and several other organizations and committees. He held many offices in these organizations and he led the way on many civic projects for the betterment of Bloomington. Mayor Gene Winstead and former Governor Al Quie spoke at his memorial service. Mr. Carlson passed away on December 8, 2016 at the age of 81.

**Yvonne Bublitz** was instrumental in bringing the Normandale Japanese Garden to fruition. She and other Garden Committee members worked for nearly ten years to raise the funds needed to fulfill landscape architect Takao Watanabe’s vision. Mrs. Bublitz was also a supporter of BSCO. She encouraged having the organizations work together to support each other’s programs and she attended and volunteered at BSCO events and fundraisers. Mrs. Bublitz passed away on January 10, 2017.

# Perspectives: Student Delegate from Izumi



*Hosting is a family affair. Urara Kamon, right, poses with fellow student delegate, Fusako Kitano, left. The students were hosted by BSCO board member Mike Migliacio (center) and his wife Lisa (not pictured). Also pictured are Mike's parents, Jeanne and Steve Migliacio.*

## **My Stay In Bloomington**

By Urara Kamon

Ohtani Senior High School,  
Second-Year Student

Izumi Student Delegation to  
Bloomington 2016

**M**y first trip to America held plenty of surprises. The packed lanes and the speed of the cars on the roads, the unlimited cola refills and 'doggie bags' at restaurants, the use of microwaves to boil water, the absence of day parasols, and so much more. But the most surprising to me was the friendliness of store employees. They would always greet me with 'How are you?' when I entered a shop, and in restaurants the servers would even ask customers if their food was delicious or not! I don't see much of this in Japan, but I do remember thinking that it was a good thing that so much active communication takes place between clerks and customers.

In Bloomington, we toured various places and had many different kinds of experiences. America's biggest

shopping mall, the Mall of America, was packed with everything from a water ride that could soak you more than a shower to a roller coaster so fast it couldn't compare with Japan. We also went to the Twins vs. Astros game in Minneapolis, where the excitement was the greatest. Everything was fun, but my favorite moment of the exchange was a day trip with my host family. They took me to meet their parents at their vacation home on the shores of a small lake in Wisconsin, where I got to ride across the lake in a motorboat for the first time. The scenery was beautiful, and the breeze felt great. My host family was very kind, and taught me many things about America and Minnesota. In return, I was able to teach them about Japan and deepen mutual understanding between our two cultures. One thing I still don't quite understand are some of the Minnesota jokes that were explained to me, like "Minnesota only has two seasons: winter and road construction". I also had a glimpse of America's student life by interacting with other students who were about my age. Outside of official delegation events, the students took me to several different kinds of places: a drive-in theater, a bowling alley, and a laser tag arena. This time was very special to me. I was able to meet friends and experience American society from young person's perspective...something I could not do in Japan. Although we live in different places and speak different languages, we became friends just the same. I realized again that the heart knows no borders.

The experiences I've had on the exchange are very different from those of my daily life in Japan. I noticed things every day, and learned more than I ever expected. Every day was packed with interactions with all kinds of people with different ways of thinking, changing my viewpoint from Japan-centric to that of a bigger, wider world.

Despite the fact that both the flight to America and the return trip to Japan were delayed due to system trouble and the appearance of multiple typhoons, both the officials in Izumi City and the Bloomington Sister City Organization were able to stay in constant communication, and adjusted the schedule, allowing us the opportunity to have a fulfilling stay in Bloomington. This would not have been possible without the cooperation of many people. I'm very thankful.

This visit to Bloomington was precious to me. It changed my life.

**"I realized again that the heart knows no borders."**

**~Urara Kamon**



*2016 Izumi Student Delegation*

# Perspectives: Twin Cities Marathon Runners

**B**SCO was honored to host two runners from Izumi City for the Twin Cities Marathon October 9th, 2016. Hisao Oe and Yugo Matsuba were wonderful representatives from Japan. Hisao is a Japanese teacher at a junior high school in Izumi City. This was his third marathon. Yugo is an engineer that works for a construction company in Izumi City. Both ran and completed the marathon in wonderful fashion. Yugo was a top 40 overall finisher with a time of 2:38, a 6:04 per mile pace for 26 miles. Overall, Yugo placed 39th out of over 8500 finishers! In addition to running the marathon, both runners were able to experience many things while in Bloomington. They toured Kennedy High School and Oak Grove Elementary School as well as

meeting with both principals. They enjoyed a fun-filled classroom visit with kindergartners at Oak Grove Elementary. Hisao taught the kindergartners a beginning course in origami. He left each student with his own personal creation. Both Hisao and Yugo visited the Mall of America more than once! They also spent time touring Minnehaha Falls and various art museums throughout the Twin Cities. They enjoyed a variety of foods and culture during their home-stays in Bloomington.

A special thanks to Anne and Ben Janotta and Annette and Dave Murphy for hosting both runners. They made lifetime connections with both runners and their families!



*Hisao and Yugo visit Minnehaha Falls. (Top right.)*

*The runners visit a classroom at Oak Grove Elementary. (Left)*

*The runners meet Andy Beaton, principal of Kennedy High School. (Right.)*



## Senshu Marathon Runners Selected

BSCO is proud to announce the selection of Elizabeth Plasynski and Derek Landseidl to travel to Izumi City to participate in the Senshu Marathon in February 2017. Ms. Plasynski is a 4th Grade teacher at Indian Mounds Elementary. She hopes to connect her

classroom with an Izumi classroom for a wonderful learning experience. Mr. Landseidl is an ESL teacher at Kennedy High School and looks forward to this cultural exchange. Look for a recap of their adventures in the next edition of the BSCO newsletter.

If you wish to be considered for a future BSCO Marathon Exchange, contact BSCO at [BloomingtonSisterCity@gmail.com](mailto:BloomingtonSisterCity@gmail.com). Your name will be added to a mailing list with information on applying for the 2018 marathon exchange.