

San Francisco Giants Game (Aug. 24)

The San Francisco Giants organize a special Japanese Heritage Night celebrating the America-Japan Grassroots Summit, inviting the participants to AT&T park to enjoy a Giants vs. Cincinnati Reds baseball game. During the pre game ceremony, Masanori Murakami, Tsunenari Tokugawa, Matthew Perry, Michael Amacost, Taizo Watanabe, and a few others were introduced to the crowd.



Members of the Summit on the field



Video message from Hideki Matsui of LA Angeles



Performances by FBC and Sunset Academy of Dance of San Francisco and Yuko Takahashi Dance Company of Miyagi

Local Tours (Aug. 25)

5 Local Tour options by knowledgeable local volunteers were offered to participants who choose areas they would like to visit. Around 40 people chose to stay in San Francisco for a lecture from journalist Fumio Matsuo.



Union Square History and Shopping Tour



Seminar from Fumio Matsuo



Monterey, Carmel, Salinas Tour



Gold Country Tour



Wine Country Tour



Silicon Valley Tour

★Comments from Participants★

I participated in the Monterey, Carmel and Salinas Tour. It felt as if I had travelled back in time to Steinbeck's East of Eden. Mr. Wada, our tour leader, spoke about many things on the tour. I was particularly moved by the stories of the internment of Japanese immigrants during World War II, and the subsequent success of the farms. – S.S.(Ms.)

Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception (Aug. 25)

The Opening Ceremony was held at the Westin St. Francis hotel. The Japanese Summit participants received a grand standing and dancing welcome as they were led to their seats by the Glide Ensemble Choir. 610 people took part in the Opening Ceremony. Afterwards, the lively Welcome Reception was held on the 32nd floor overlooking the view of the San Francisco City landscape.



Ambassador of Japan to the United States Ichiro Fujisaki *



SBGS Chairman, Ambassador Michael H. Amacost *



CIE Chairman, Ambassador Taizo Watanabe *



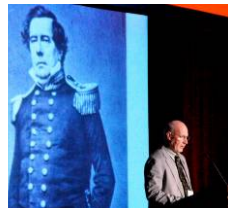
Acting Consul General of Japan Hideyuki Mitsuoka *



Mistress of Ceremonies Jan Yanehiro *



The 18th Descendant of Tokugawa Shogunate Tsunenari Tokugawa *



The 4th Descendant of Commodore Matthew Perry Dr. Matthew Perry *



The 6th Descendant of Rev. Samuel Damon Julia and Esme Damon *



A video message from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger *



Descendants of Captain Whitfield and John Manjiro exchange the Commemorative globe



Tsugaru Shamisen Performance by Masato Shibata *



Glide Ensemble *



Yuko Takahashi Dance Company "Waves: A drift in the Pacific" A tribute to Manjiro *

★Comments from Participants★

- The Opening Ceremony was as wonderful as I had expected. I am very grateful to have been able to take part in a summit like this – A.S.(Ms.)
- It was completely unexpected to receive a video message from Governor Schwarzenegger. I was very touched. – A.A. (Ms.)
- With each event I was able to appreciate the dynamic and excitement – J.N. (Ms.)



Breaking of the ceremonial sake barrel *



Rice pounding ceremony *



Welcome party *

Local Sessions Homestay Program (Aug. 26—Aug. 29)

The Local Session program lasted 4 days and 3 nights in 11 different locations around the San Francisco Bay Area. (The number of Japanese participants are listed next to the Regions in brackets below)



1. Marin County (9)



2. Sonoma County (17)



3. Solano County (16)



4. Contra Costa County (19)



5. Alameda County (19)



6. Santa Clara County (25)



7. San Mateo County (7)



8-A. San Francisco County A (21)



8-B. San Francisco County B (22)



8-C. San Francisco County C (10)



9. Japanese American Experience(17)



10. Napa County (10)



11. Gilroy (5)

★Comments from Participants★

- I was nervous before the Summit. But from the moment my host mother and children placed the lei around my neck, I did nothing but smile! I have always liked America, but this trip has increased my fondness even further. On the last day, I did not want to leave so much that I almost cried. – M.A. 14 years old (girl)
- At the elementary school we were able to overcome the language barrier and play with each other. I've made memories that will stay with me forever. My host family took me to many places, and I cried when it was time to leave them. This was the first time in my life to experience emotion like this. Because of this Summit I will try hard with my English study and do my best to be kind to people. T.E. 13 years old (boy)
- This was my second time to participate in the Summit, so I already knew how wonderful it would be but it was magical to be able to experience it with American people who I had never met before and build deep friendships with them. The summit completely ran to the detailed schedule and the 8 days flew by and I have been greatly moved by the experience. R.H.(Mr.)

Closing Ceremony (Aug. 29)

After the local sessions, the Closing Ceremony was held at Hotel Kabuki in Japantown. Including host families, around 550 people participated. With many greetings and salutations from a number of people, after this year's committee was thanked for their work, information on next year's Summit was given. Following this, everyone enjoyed the Bon-Odori Festival in Japantown to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Kanrin-Maru.



CIE-US President,
Richard Wood



Introduction of Regional Leaders
and key volunteers



A Director/Writer of the film
"The Harimaya Bridge"
Aaron Woolfolk



Art Projects



Closing Ceremony



Yosakoi dance in Japantown



Post Summit Optional Program (Aug. 30-)

After the Summit, while some participants flew back to Japan directly from San Francisco, many of the Japanese participants departed for the Post Summit Optional Programs to explore the different cultures of other regions of America and make more friends.



Colorado Springs Homestay



Washington DC Homestay



Fairhaven



Seattle Mariners Game



Extended stay in San Francisco

★Comments from Participants★

- In Washington, Mr and Mrs Owen took me on a tour of the Senate and an art museum. After this we took a drive to Shenandoah National Park. The highlight of the trip was the Japanese-style bath and Japanese dinner party at Taeko's house. I am so thankful for this experience - N.K. (Mr.)
- We visited the school that Manjiro studied at in New Bedford, as well as Captain Whitfield's house and grave. I was surprised and moved by how welcoming and enthusiastic the local people were - T.T. (Ms.)



SBGS 2010
San Francisco Bay Area Grassroots Summit



SBGS Executive Committee
Members



Regional Leaders



Local Tour Leaders



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