



# Zama Alumni Association

## Takenoko News

September, 2009

**New Website Launched!!! Check us out at [Zama Alumni Association](http://Zama Alumni Association) !!!**

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A new website, a new name...

Our newsletters in the past have had the title "Kaki-Mono," the same as the ZHS newspaper. We are thinking that it may be best to have a brand new one for ours.

What do you think? We're looking for ideas, whether it's a Japanese or English word or a combination of both. Please let us know what may be running through your brain!!

For this issue, we've chosen Takenoko News. (Bamboo Shoot News) Here is the reason for the name.

In the foreword of the very first Zama yearbook, there's a paragraph written about that year's theme. The theme that was chosen was bamboo. Here is some of what was written in the foreword:

"It (bamboo) is a most versatile and useful plant. Its rapid growth is comparable to the growth and development of boys and girls of high school age. Its qualities of strength, grace, beauty and usefulness are goals to which we all aspire... As the bamboo needs the nourishment provided by sunlight, water, products of the earth, and a favorable climate in which to grow, so do the minds and personalities of young men and women."

We may not be boys and girls any more in the literal sense. But no matter what our age is, we continue to grow and change... we continue to need love and "nourishment" from our friends and family to become strong and show the beauty which we have inside of us.

This ZAA website is new, a "baby" in a way, just like a new, tender bamboo shoot. It's our wish that the Association will become "tall and strong" in providing news about events, information about schoolmates and will help in bringing our Zama family members back together again.

Roberta - '88

**Check us out at [Zama Alumni Association](#) !!!**

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We hope that with this site, it will be a central location where everyone can find other people. We're not trying to replace social networking sites like Facebook, etc, but not everyone's on Facebook (yet!). If you have an account on there, check out these pages:

[Zama Alumni Association \(on Facebook\)](#)

or

[Alumni of Zama American High School](#)

or

[Zama American High School](#)

We also encourage you to join the association so that we can continue to bring everyone together with reunions, websites and news.

George - '71

**2009 Zama Celebration**

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We have a few more bracelets and T-shirts from the 50th Anniversary. Currently in stock, we have:

T-Shirts

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3 - Medium

4 - Large

20 - X-Large

11 - 2X-Large

Bracelets

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99

These will be shipped via Priority Mail on a first-come, first-serve basis. I will keep a tally on the website which I will update daily. We may be able to ship up to 2 shirts in one priority mail envelope. Just go to the **2010 REUNION** tab on the website and the item tally as well as the shopping cart are located there. Put your order in before these one-of-a-kind items are gone!

George - '71

**2009 Zama Celebration - from a Japan perspective**

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I asked Roberta Stott, '88, to share her thoughts on the reunion from a perspective of someone who's lived in Japan literally her entire life:

To sum it up into two words: A BLAST!! Over one hundred people gathering together, crossing borders, oceans and time lines... coming together for one purpose: to come "home" to celebrate Zama High School's 50 years!

Many people came early to have the chance to sight-see, walk their old after-school "haunts" and visit areas where their old houses were. (Some people's houses were still there!) A lot of people had the opportunity to hang out with old friends and reminisce about their school days prior to the actual reunion. We had the chance to walk with the graduates on their special day, a sunny day right in the middle of rainy season!

Personally, I have to say it was one of the most enjoyable reunions I've been to. It didn't matter that there were no other '88 grads there. Everyone "adopted" me as one of their own and I had the time of my life!! A lot of us hung out together for about a week, traveling around Tokyo, doing "touristy" things and eating lots of Japanese food. (Those of you who are on FB have probably seen the pictures we all took.)

Bruce Derr was there (some of us knew him as Coach Derr), Mr. Stratakos was there and Mr. and Mrs. Schulte were there, too. (Mrs. Schulte aka Miss Honjo) By the way, Mr. Schulte and Mr. Stratakos are still teaching at Zama, believe it or not!!

It truly was amazing to be there with such fabulous people, celebrating the anniversary of a school which all of us are connected to. How great it is to be a part of such a wonderful school and this wonderful group... couldn't stand to miss another all-class reunion and look forward to seeing all of you at our next one in DC!! =)

Roberta - '88

## **Upcoming 2010 Reunion !!!**

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Note: so far we have 113 schoolmates who have expressed interest in attending ...

We're getting closer to a site selection for the 2010 Reunion in Washington DC. Hopefully with the buzz that's generated with the newsletters, new website, Facebook and all, we hope to have a great turnout. We're always recruiting for volunteers so contact either myself or Georgine Luketic Lindseth if you can. Keep an eye out for the news.

George - '71

## **Requests from Roberta**

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**Maiden names/Married names/changed names** - Please be sure to have your names typed in the correct spaces. This will make it easier for your friends to find you. Those who you are in touch with on a regular basis may know of name changes, but others will be looking for you under the name they knew you as in school.

**In Memory page** - We need your help to get the correct information on this page. If you happen to have specific info about a person, please let us know. We are careful not to post anything on this page until we have valid information.

**Email addresses** - Please be sure to keep your email addresses current. Any updates which we send out to everyone will be sent to the one in your profile.

**Privacy controls** - When you create your profile (or for those that already have), we recommend that you check the box towards the bottom called PROFILE VISIBILITY. If the box is unchecked, your profile is visible publicly rather than just by your registered classmates. To see if your profile is public, just select your name WITHOUT logging into the website. If it's secured, it should ask you to log in.

**Help us get the word out!!** - Are you on Facebook, MySpace, Twitter or any other social networking systems? If you are, please help us to inform other Zama friends about our new website. If there are names which need to be added to the lists on here, let us know and we'll add them right away.

Roberta - '88

## **The Alumni Directory**

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We have gotten a few inquiries on whether a printed directory would be coming out or not. At the present time, we are not planning to print a directory; however, we are planning to use this website's function as the electronic directory.

Granted, this may pose a hardship on persons without Internet access; however, we believe that the pros may outweigh the cons. First, by leaving it electronic, we save on both printing and postage costs. Secondly, updates should be immediate rather than yearly (so be sure to update your profile). Thirdly, in this day and age of identity theft, we feel it is a liability to have names and addresses in a printed format which may be stolen. Fourthly, the website allows you to message any one of your schoolmates immediately. Finally, we believe this is a more convenient format ... no more searching for a printed directory (some of us searching longer than others).

George - '71