

SYNOPSIS OF Class of 1968 Cluster Reunion in Tokyo, April 2016
from Betty Mori

The first gathering was on **4/20 (2016)** at 5 pm for a **Welcome Reception** sponsored by ASIJ at the **ASIJ Learning Center** in Roppongi Hills.

We had registration there, with sushi buffet and drinks.

A month before this reunion, I reached out to whoever had replied on the Cluster Reunion site if they were interested in a class of 68 dinner that evening as it was just for cocktails. After persuasion, Farida Rahman kindly reserved at the Indian Restaurant, MOTI's Akasaka where 13 of us showed up. I let Annie Nichols Campbell, co chair of the 66 reunion know of our gathering 3 weeks before, so classes of 66 and 67 followed the idea and had their own dinners that nite!

4/21 was the **Welcome Dinner** which was held at the Tokyo American Club. A very nicely scheduled evening with Announcements, Acknowledgements, Photos of each class, buffet dinner, Gift to ASIJ from those of us attending, and Slide Show. We all sat in tables of 10 and enjoyed the evening. This function was quite a gala and many of the people returned to have drinks at the ANA Hotel.

4/22 was **Back-to School Day** and we had to meet at the ASIJ Chofu campus at 10 AM. I ran into some classmates and other in the lobby of the ANA, (Sally Leppard, Jeff Sheffer, to name a few) and we all headed there, going on the Namboku subway station which was a first for me, right from the hotel to Yotsuya, transferring to the Chuo Line, and then got off at the Musashi-Sakai station to the new Tama station. Tama Bochi Mae is no longer the name, and we were amazed at the beautiful train.

We all met for Welcome speeches by many of the ASIJ staff, with Q & A. At 11 AM, we all split into small groups of 10 and had tours of the campus. Very well done, and while some were touring, others went for their Class Viewings which we had to sign up for on-line to attend a class of our choice for 20 min.

From 11:50 am, we all went to the cafeteria and ASIJ treated us to a great lunch. What a selection they have now: salad bar, ramen, curry, etc. and we left just as the first of the students were coming into eat.

When we got back to the MPR room, classmate Toni Dyktor Mullen gave an excellent speech on Third Culture Kids!

At 2PM, we had free time for 4 hours. Some decided to stay around the school, but some of us from our class decided to venture to Kichijoji station. Anna Gadsby, Joy Williams, Reynaldo S. Domingo, Chung Ryu came along with me and we all walked around the streets of Kichijoji, went to Inokashira Park, had a bite to eat and took the train back. There were other classmates who were heading back to the hotel as they were not attending the evening event and as they weren't sure about the train, they came along and we bid them farewell on the train as we got off at Kichijoji.

Back to ASIJ by 6PM, and we attended the Opening night performance of "High School Musical " at the ASIJ Theater. Very enjoyable, and ASIJ had 2 buses taking us back to the ANA hotel after the musical. They really went all out for us.

4/23, Sayonara Dinner was at the Shato Hanten near the US Embassy, and the owner is Helen Ma, class of 67. We had a nice buffet Chinese dinner and drinks to close the reunion. After dinner, many of the schoolmates gave speeches and talked about this special occasion and gathering of the Cluster Reunion. I felt that this reunion was very well planned and had so much support from ASIJ and it was an experience for everyone of us there to get together and reconnect with others who attended.

I'm sure that everyone of the attendees had some kind of connection with the participants, as we all had attended the school.