

Pictures from Japan 2006 – Kevin and Mamico's wedding
Dear Family and Friends,

The pictures from Kevin's wedding in Japan are loaded on our Website at www.doppstein.com. Then click on "Links" then on "Bob & Sharon Travels" where you will see "Japan 06". The groupings are by city.

The Wedding was an amazing event, with all of Mamico's family as well as Kevin and Mamico themselves being so musical that it was continuous amazement. The ceremony was stunningly beautiful, being held under a Chupah which was batiked using Mamico's Buddhist prayer candles with both Kanji (Japanese characters) and Hebrew symbols. Kevin and Mamico then shared ceremonies including reading a Ketubah and sharing Buddhist Sake cups and breaking of the glass. Each was explained in both English and Japanese by the "Irish" Kevin, a dear friend who was the celebration MC. After the wedding kiss, speeches of well wishes and love were offered to the couple. Bob's speech in English and Japanese went pretty well with no one getting accidentally insulted! Then the room became alive with music. Masutoshi (Mamico's father) directs a choir who performed so beautifully with her mother, Kumiko and brother sister in law, Toshiya, Haruyo and even their kids joined in to fill the room



with joyous song. To have a song EVERYONE knew, they closed with "Do, Re, Me" from the "Sound of Music". Indeed! They were the Kotani Van Trap family singers! Kevin and Mamico then took the stage reading a heart warming speech to both her parents and to both of us thanking us for our support and love. Kevin reached over and lifted his viola from its case as Mamico settled in behind the piano as they played the gorgeous duet by Elger, "Salute d' Amour", dedicated to us which they had been practicing for some time. Just try to keep a dry eye through that! It still brings a lump to the throat. After that, Mamico took center stage leading her amazingly talented band! She played the accordion, the flute and sang like Norah Jones only wishes she could. Dancing and conversation was continuous until the establishment owners informed everyone it was time to close. It was a perfect evening and a perfect beginning for two very special and very wonderful young people.

The rest of the visit was also studded with gems of memory like the two dinners shared with Mamico's family in Nara which was not only very much fun, but it was warming to get to know our new, wonderful family half a world away from Atlanta. It also was so nice to see our dear friends from Terai (2.5 hours north of Osaka by train). It was their love years ago that made Kevin feel so at home that he made Japan his new home and eventually led to this happy day. The Osaka Cherry festival and seeing the Himeji castle was a wonderful to experience too.

Having time to be with other family members and friends was a rare and treasured memory as well. Having time for long conversations with Kenny, Danny (and his girlfriend Sylvie) and Adam (referred to as Sharon's "fourth" son because he has been so close to the family since his teenage years) was a rare treat.

In all, it was an event that will be remembers for the rest of our lives in glowing tones. Enjoy the pictures which capture at least a part of the joy.

Love,
Bob and Sharon

