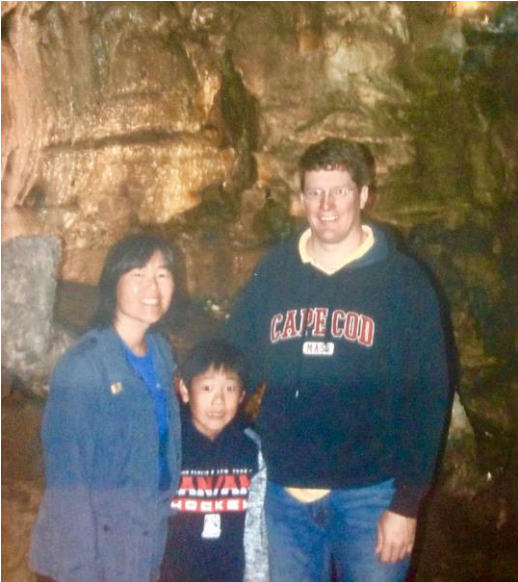


MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Eriko Fujita



Each month, we are featuring a member “In the Spotlight” so we can all get to know each other a little better. This month, we feature Eriko Fujita.

Eriko grew up in Buffalo and is the youngest of four. Her parents are still in Buffalo. Eriko attended SUNY Albany to get a degree in Geology. She started her first professional job as a Geologist in Buffalo. Luckily, in 1994 she got transferred to this area permanently, after a few months of living in various hotels, most notably the Saratoga Downtowner, which is now up for sale!

Remember PCBs in the Hudson River? Eriko worked at the Hudson Falls plant helping investigate the source of the PCBs for many years and got out of that line of work before the actual river cleanup work started.

Eriko met her husband Kurt through a geology colleague here in Saratoga Springs. He was working as a chemical engineer in the paper industry. They got married in 2004 and many of you may recall their very fortunate experience of adopting their son Kazuki in early 2009. At that time Eriko was working in the language industry as a project manager and Kurt had recently started teaching Technology at the high school.

Eriko is so proud to be part of this club. She has met so many remarkable and inspiring women, who she otherwise would never have met. Eriko was sponsored by former member Laurie Scheuing to join Soroptimist in 2006. She started on the Cabin Fever committee as a newbie and made the rounds serving on Growth and Development, Secret Gardens Tour, Communications, and so on. She served as the Assistant Treasurer and Treasurer and fondly remembers bringing her son to Stewart's for the board meetings. She says, “He was so nice and quiet in the early years...”

In 2012 Eriko co-chaired Awards and Fund Distribution with former member Kristin Grosso and was fortunate to have been "given" an extra \$7K to distribute! After the committee learned about the on-going efforts of some of our members globally, the \$7K became \$10K which was distributed to Loisaba, Cinterandes, To Love a Child, and the Giving Circle. Over the years, Eriko has had to scale back her SISC participation and limited herself to website updates for the club after being trained first by Barb Cumming and then by Marquita Rhodes. Now in 2017, she is on a committee again, serving on Dream it, Be it.

Eriko currently works in the Admissions office at Skidmore College and Kurt is co-owner of Artisanal Brew Works. As a family they have visited many breweries together and continue to do so, and it has been quite an experience to become local business owners. They still manage to keep their nine-year-old son involved with ice hockey, which seems to be a year-round sport! This past summer Kazuki finally learned how to get his face wet at the pool, now he jumps in, swims underwater, and loves water slides. They expect their future will continue to revolve around water in the forms of ice, lakes/oceans, and beer.

The picture above is of Eriko, Kazuki, and Kurt at Howe Caverns from this past summer during their yearly brewery tour trip to Cooperstown.