



January-February 2011

Volume 110

## Membership Meeting

**Tuesday, January 11, 2011**

**Bellevue City Hall 7:30 p.m.**

**Taiwan's Recent Developments and its International Participations**  
Director General Daniel Liao, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Seattle



BSCA has a long history of friendship with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Seattle, and we are pleased to have Director General Daniel Liao as our speaker at this general meeting. His experience over 30 years has taken him to many part of the world in various capacities representing the government of Taiwan.

In his talk he will update us on how Taiwan develops it economy in the wake of global economic crisis and its economic relations with the United States and mainland China. He will focus on Taiwan's recent trade agreement with mainland China, as well as the upcoming trade talks between Taiwan and the United States and Taiwan's government procurement opportunities for American companies. He will also fill us in on Taiwan's participation in the international organizations such as International Civil Aviation Organization as well as touch on the

many cultural events that are provided by the Chinese Cultural Center in Seattle.

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Seattle was established for the purpose of promoting and strengthening the economic, cultural, educational and other related ties between the United States and the Republic of China (ROC) or Taiwan. The Seattle office (TECO-Seattle), overseen by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States, represents the interests of ROC (Taiwan) in Northwest Region of the USA. The TECO-Seattle also oversees the Chinese Cultural Center located in Seattle China Town community. This center provides a venue for a diverse range of multi-cultural events including art exhibitions, musical concerts, dance programs, educational lectures, and ongoing classes in traditional Chinese arts.

### **BSCA MISSION STATEMENT**

The Bellevue Sister Cities Association (BSCA) is a non-profit organization of citizen diplomats dedicated to fostering understanding, appreciation, and peaceful coexistence among the peoples of our world. BSCA works toward this aim by creating and maintaining people-to-people relationships in an effort to promote cooperation, cultural understanding, humanitarian aid, and economic development at the local level.

President—Hugh Burseson    Secretary—Gary Winchester    Newsletter Editor—Inta Gotelli

## President's Message

As the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century ended, BSCA suffered the sad loss of two long-time members and former BSCA presidents—Pat Hale and Vilis Baravics. Pat was an early president and for many years served as Washington state coordinator for Sister Cities International. Vilis was my immediate predecessor as BSCA president. The passing of these two means that our able-bodied activists—board members and regular members alike—must carry that much additional weight and responsibility for keeping BSCA ever ready to take on new and challenging activities. About some of these, you will see articles in this newsletter. Your BSCA board also is ever ready to listen to and consider new ideas that you regular members may suggest.

We have long benefited from warm relations with Taiwan's Economic and Cultural Office in Seattle. And, will be honored to have its current Director General Daniel Liao as our featured speaker at our general meeting on January 11th.

Some of you may know other interesting personalities who might appear in BSCA programs. Share that information with BSCA board members who can take the initiative on working such persons into our programs. We are always open to useful suggestions.

For, as the times keep on a-changin', BSCA must be ready to adapt to new conditions and seize new opportunities. Such as, can we make use of the new social media to spread the word about BSCA programs, make new contacts and open up new communication channels with Eastside citizens? Should we be on Facebook, using Twitter, etc? For some of us elders, that is a brave new world; and we wonder if BSCA can effectively step into it. Your ideas?

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2011



**Our Exchange Student News:** Recently Rachael Laxton (Kladno 2010) was invited to speak to the Czech Slovak Genealogy group at their Thanksgiving potluck. The genealogy interest group meets once a month in Kirkland with people coming from Bellingham to Olympia. Besides Rachael telling them about her Bellevue Sister City Exchange, they enjoyed great ethnic food, Czech & Slovak music, fun networking, heard news about Czech language classes in the Seattle area, and had a chance to see some new books to help with research. Their website: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wacsig/>

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

While Rose Running might no longer be our main contact at City Hall, both she and Ron have joined BSCA to keep in touch with the many friends she has made over all these years. **Welcome Rose and Ron Running!** We look forward to many more years of having you be part of BSCA.

We are always delighted to have family members or our summer exchange students join BSCA—and so **Welcome Heidi Ressler!** It has been four years since Lauren Ressler was our exchange student to Kladno, and now that the younger brother is off to college, Heidi will leave her involvement with the International Baccalaureate Program and bring her energy and school connections to BSCA and the Kladno committee. She is more than willing to step up to the board and relieve Gregg Schrader of some of this responsibility. A HUGE THANK YOU!

*Note: our newsletter is also sent the exchange students and families for the next 4-5 years in hopes that they might decide to join us—even if it might only be for a delegation trip.*

## Yao Lions Roar, Politely

Earlier this year BSCA agreed to help the Yao Lions Club by agreeing to host the winners of their English debate contest for high-school age students. The debates have been held and the winners - three 17~18 old students, two girls and one boy, will be here March 23~April 5. The Yao Lions President, Mr. Ikeda, will escort the students.

Eureka Lim is approaching the Newport High School Debate Club about finding host families from among the debate club families, or possibly from among the host families of our past Japanese summer exchange students. A generous honorarium is offered to the host families.

Obviously, too, we need to plan on properly receiving Mr. Ikeda and the students when they arrive. The board will alert the Lions here in Bellevue to the project and see if they may be interested in becoming involved. Please contact Hugh or Florence if you would like to be involved in the planning. Stay tuned for updates!



## In Memoriam Patricia (Pat) S Hale

Not long after Bellevue and Yao signed their Sister City affiliation, Pat Simonson, not only joined, but became one of the key members that kept BSCA an active and thriving organization. Pat was born and raised in Fargo, ND and graduated from North Dakota State, moving to Bellevue after her first marriage. One of her early and ongoing passions was politics, and she learned many of the skills that made her a great organizer participating in several Republican campaigns.

Pat soon used her organizational skills to take charge of events for BSCA – from back yard barbecues to delegation trips. She was one of the members on the first ever delegation trip to

Yao (1970?) with founding members Otis and Virginia Simon, Sumi and Tokio Hirotaka and Mitzie Hashiguchi among others, and did not miss a delegation trip for many years. She developed a love for Japanese things, from Japanese dolls to the many items that graced her home and garden.

Along the way she met Mark Hale then also a BSCA member and a widower, who became her second husband. They both shared their love for things Japanese and worked diligently on the new Yao Garden project at the Bellevue Botanical Garden.



Pat's first delegation trip 1970?



Pat and Mark at the new Yao Garden

It was Pat who decided that BSCA needed a newsletter, and took it upon herself to edit it - which she did up to only a few years ago. She thought it important to attend Sister City International conferences, there meeting many like minded people. She took on the job of Washington State representative to SCI and networked with members of other Washington Sister City organizations.

She also made sure that BSCA members participated in volunteer activities – such as the tree planting along the Bellevue green belt in 2000 – along with Mitzie and the then BSCA president, Vilis Barevics. And these are only some

of the many things BSCA has to thank Pat and her inexhaustible energy. She will be a hard act to follow!



Tree planting Earth Day 2000

As this newsletter goes to press we are facing the loss of one more key member—Vilis Barevics passed away on Christmas Eve. He had hoped that after his surgery in April, the cancer might take longer to return... Vilis was one of the original members at the time Liepaja, Latvia became one of Bellevue's sister cities, served as Liepaja committee chair and as BSCA president. He took over the presidency from Max Clark at the time BSCA was implementing its new bylaws and was instrumental in reshaping BSCA financial structure to allow each committee discretion over their funds as well as providing continuing financial guidance throughout the years. We will sorely miss him!

Vilis' Latvian fraternity Lettonia will hold a memorial service on Saturday, January 22nd at 1:00 pm at the Latvian Church in Seattle 11710 3rd Ave. NE, Seattle (Northgate area)



## BSCA HOLIDAY DINNER 2010



This year our Annual Holiday Dinner was held on December 9th was a very special one – the family that prepared it for us was the Gowanis – their son, Jebrān was our exchange student to Liepaja last summer. This was their way of thanking us for giving Jebrān the opportunity to have this valuable experience. The menu was Pakistani fusion, the creamy mango chicken delicious, as was all the rest. Along with dessert we sampled Jebrān's Madeleines – he bakes these and sells them through his business at SeattleGourmetMasala.com. THANK YOU!

Again this year, Daniel Lim and 12 young musicians from their "Music with a Mission" from Newport High School provided our musical entertainment—not only at the beginning of dinner, but off and on throughout the evening. They are a group of music students who donate the contributions they receive for performances to local charities. THANK YOU!

Our special guests for the evening were Rose and Ron Running. Rose is leaving her position at City Hall as BSCA liaison—we will miss her—and as our thanks she received a certificate of appreciation and a gift. ENJOY! Among those present were Director General Daniel Liao and two of his staff—He will be the speaker at our January meeting.

And not least was our raffle—four baskets stuffed with holiday items went home with the lucky winners! Again, a most enjoyable evening.



### Reminder to all—Summer Student Exchange Applications Available

Please share the information about our summer student exchange program with students and their families who might be interested in participating. The application and additional information can be found on line at the City of Bellevue website under the Manager's office information—or go to:

[http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/pdf/Manager/STUDENT\\_EXCHANGE\\_PROGRAM.pdf](http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/pdf/Manager/STUDENT_EXCHANGE_PROGRAM.pdf)