



November-December 2011

Volume 115

Membership Meeting

Tuesday, November 8, 2011

Bellevue City Hall 7:30 p.m.

LUMINOUS: *The Art of Asia*

Catherine Roche, Curator of the Exhibition



We continue with our focus on Asia and are honored to have Catherine Roche, the curator of this exceptional exhibition be our speaker at this meeting. She will give us the background and highlights to enhance our appreciation when we visit the exhibition:

Fresh from a celebrated tour throughout Japan, Luminous: The Art of Asia showcases the jewels of Seattle Art Museum's Asian collections, featuring 160 of the museum's masterpieces. All objects come from the Seattle Art Museum, home to one of the finest collections of Asian art in North America. The exhibition marks the first time these objects have been assembled in a major exhibition at SAM Downtown. Curated by Japanese art historian Catherine Roche, the objects in Luminous range from 1,500-year-old Buddhist fragments, dazzling golden screens and bold ink paintings to rich Tibetan mandalas, sumptuous Japanese kimonos and gossamer Korean bojagi. A small selection of the museum's newest acquisitions in contemporary Asian painting, ceramics and photography will also be on view.

In addition, the show will open an animated dialogue about art and Asia, beauty and vitality through excerpts of conversations with internationally recognized contemporary artist Do Ho Suh. "What I'm interested in is the common thread that links me to, say, a 3,000-year-old object. It was beautiful then and it is beautiful now. Can beauty be absolutely free from time, space, and context?" Suh said in a conversation with Roche about the exhibition.

Luminous: The Art of Asia, on view October 13, 2011–January 8, 2012 at SAM Downtown, will present a lush and rich experience of the art from 12 Asian nations. Do Ho Suh's thoughtful commentary illuminates these precious works and makes them relevant for today's contemporary audience.

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 Burleson Secretary—Gary Winchester Newsletter Editor—Inta Gotelli

President's Message

As this issue of your newsletter is in the works, several BSCA stalwarts and I are still catching our breath from the intense experiences of the reception on October 21st at City Hall and hosting the annual Sister Cities conference at Crossroads Community Center the following day.

Both events were very successful and worthwhile. Successful in that they drew good attendance, helped develop and expand our social networking and may bring in a few new members. Worthwhile in that those of us from your BSCA Board who attended the Saturday conference—Inta Gotelli, Heidi Ressler, Florence Metcalf, Gary Winchester and yours truly—learned useful facts and heard good ideas. The Friday reception also gave BSCA good exposure and further cemented our bonds with City Hall. Bellevue Mayor Davidson was very much present, along with Deputy Mayor Conrad Lee and Councilman John Chelminiak.

The Friday reception made a good start with the entertainment: a performance by Seattle Kokon Taiko—(think “big drums”), by the ladies of the Kabuki Academy playing their 3-stringed shamisens, and by Michaela Kusumi performing a classical Japanese dance.

Consul General Ota presented Sister Cities State Coordinator Bud Bard a plaque commending his decades of contributions to better cultural understanding and US-Japan relations. He spoke

Japanese and Washington cities and towns (37 out of over 50 statewide) ; and King 5's Lori Matsukawa filled us in on Seattle's Japanese Community Cultural Center (of which she is board chairperson) and suggested that that Center should find many ways to interact with local sister cities. She also briefly described what she and others from Seattle observed in Japan shortly after the March 11 earthquake and tsunami disaster in the Tohoku area (Japan's northeast region).

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to City Hall for doing the lion's share of the arrangements for the reception—especially to Tom Boydell and Susan Barber of the Economic Development Office. Also to Mrs. Megumi Kobayashi of the Japan America Society board, who single handedly raised donations from Japanese and Japanese American businesses to help cover the costs of the reception.

*Bellevue Sister Cities Association
Celebrates with our Annual*

Holiday Dinner

Thursday, December 8, 2011

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location to be announced

Invitations will be in the mail soon!



Washington Sister Cities Annual Conference 2011

With no rain in sight, on Saturday, October 22nd, BSCA board members arrived early at the Crossroads Community center to set up for the crowd expected. Among the 60 present were members from 19 Washington cities and from the 21 Seattle Sister Cities 11 were present—12 if we include Mike James, president of Seattle-Perugia SCA who told of the problems they faced when media coverage of events in Perugia resulted in much negative reaction.

The conference is a time for networking, sharing experiences, meeting people who share a common interest in furthering friendships and understanding—locally as well as worldwide. Besides sharing many of the same interests we also seem to encounter some of the same problems—and this is a time to address some of them: Bud Bard, Coordinator for WA Sister Cities had put together the day's program—among the topics addressed were the contributions Sister Cities make to tourism, the global effects of small non-profits (that's us), insurance issues that are a constant and expensive worry, new IRS regulations that we need to keep in mind. Among those present was Franz Lorenz, a board member of Sister Cities International who presented the WA Peace Prize Award to the Camas SCA for their English language camp in Poland, and Walla Walla SCA for the multiple ways they helped with Japan relief —congratulations!

Celebrating Washington-Japan Sister Cities

Over 80 people filled the Bellevue City Hall Concourse on the evening of Friday, October 21st to join BSCA and the City of Bellevue in a tribute to Washington -Japan Sister Cities. From the first beats of the Taiko drums the evening was an incomparable success. Thanks to all the people, organizations and companies who contributed to make this happen!



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Our sincere thanks to all who made this event a success—Megumi Kobayashi from the Japan-America Society—it was a pleasure working with you! Vanna Novak from Speak to Persuade—we enjoyed you as Master of Ceremonies, Charlie Bush for arranging for the wine from Walter Clore Wine and Culinary Center, Cowan Vineyards, Thurston Wolfe and Pontin Del Raza Winery, I Love Sushi for the bountiful Hors d'Oeuvres—Susan Barber and Tom Boydell from the City of Bellevue without whom this event would never have happened—and most of all—all of you who shared the evening with us—we appreciate your support.



An Unofficial “delegation” of one to Liepaja

As part of my recent trip to Latvia I also spent a few days in Liepaja. I met with Deputy Mayor Silva Golde, delivered Mayor Davidson’s greetings and discussed some of our common interests—one of these our summer student exchange. She thanks Bellevue for the many good ideas gleaned through the staff exchanges, both from Bellevue staff visiting in Liepaja and Liepaja staff visits to Bellevue. Our proposed delegation visit this September had been postponed, and she hopes it may take place next spring/summer. I next met with representatives from the Cultural Department who are

very interested in the possibility of exchanges with and with Natalija Vecvagare who took over Ligita Pudza’s job in foreign relations. I was a guest at an evening theater performance and the ending concert in their annual organ music festival. In between I visited friends and walked around the town.

My main interest was meeting with the staff of the Liepaja Special School and to see the progress of our Ann Knofel outdoor playground. At present the area has been prepared with sand, it will eventually have a rubber surface, two smaller pieces of equipment have been installed. The main piece of equipment designed specifically for children with developmental problems is the next goal for which they are looking at all possible sources of funding.



I should add that my driver and guide during the Liepaja visit was Agita (Drulle) Kurzeme, one of our past exchange students, I met others for lunch in Liepaja and some more my last evening in Riga. *Inta Gotelli*



Greetings from the Czech Republic

Today we ventured via metro and train to Kladno. We successfully negotiated the metro to what we thought was main train station but in the end no trains from that location went to Kladno. Back to metro C then transfer to metro A and take it to the next to last stop on the line... Our train ends up being the rural commuter so we stopped in 3 tiny little communities on the way to Kladno. Our exchange student, David Kovarik, was there to meet us and show us the sights - 4 blocks of interesting architecture which included

the city hall and one really lovely park with an overlook and two black bears rescued by the city at some point in the recent past. At City Hall I did find the display of Bellevue Sister City information and the commemorative totem pole - a gift from Bellevue to Kladno. Next David treated us to lunch. I had cucumber salad and main of gnocchi with pork and veggies in a red sauce, Brendon had a meal of "Slavic gnocchi" - something closer to spaetzel with bacon, onion and sauerkraut - all washed down with some Pilsner Urquell. (Or correct Czech would be Plzen).

David works part time for Czech Airlines getting to practice both his Spanish and English and attends University part time for public relations. He had the day off Friday and met us at our Hotel in Prague to give us his tour of Prague the next morning. *Excerpts from Heidi Ressler’s e-mails home*

The Third Annual Seattle Italian Film Festival—November 16-20, 2011

The *Seattle-Perugia Sister City Association* co-sponsors with New Italian Cinema Events a celebration of the rich cinematic tradition of Italy by presenting films from acclaimed masters and cutting edge visionaries, Cinema Italian Style is a selection of the finest contemporary Italian films that have made an impact on both Italian and International audiences. Many of the screenings will be followed by discussions between actors, filmmakers and the audience. More at: <http://www.seattle-perugia.org>