

Summer 2011

Volume 113



**We're doubling our fun this year!**  
**An Ice Cream Social *and* a Membership Picnic**

Saturday, July 9  
4:30-6:30pm

Friday, August 5  
5:00-8:00pm

**Bellevue Botanical Garden Visitor Center**  
12001 Main Street, Bellevue

*This year we are providing two times to come and enjoy some fun company and good food!*

These past several years our summer exchange student schedules have precluded us from being able to meet more than one or two of them—by the time our Asian students return to Bellevue, the European students have left... to remedy this situation this year we are planning two events:

**An Ice Cream Social on July 9th**—come and have dessert before going on to dinner and meet the students to and from Kladno who will be heading off to the Czech Republic the following week. Ice Cream, toppings and local berries—strawberries, raspberries and blueberries will be provided.

**Our usual Annual BSCA picnic on August 5th**—and by then our Asian exchange students will be here to visit with us. As in the past this will be a pot luck dinner, so be prepared to bring along a dish—see below. We will provide the dessert—again!

These events are just right for an evening outside chatting with other members, friends, exchange students, past and present, and their families. And bring along friends to meet our students and learn about BSCA and our opportunities for international experiences.

*Please call Florence Metcalf, picnic committee chair, at 425-746-2853 or at [flometcalf@comcast.net](mailto:flometcalf@comcast.net) to volunteer to help—come early to help set up or stay later to take down tables & chairs!*

Plan to bring an item to serve 8 people as indicated:

**Salad-vegetable or fruit A-M**

**Main Dish/casserole N-Z**

**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

Every year, BSCA faces a kind of "summer doldrums" as June winds down, in that normally beyond the July get-together at the Botanical Garden, most of our members will see little BSCA activity until our September general meeting. This year, we have waved the magic wand of brain-storming and will be offering our members TWO events: An ice-cream social on July 9th and our usual Potluck Picnic on August 5th this way allowing our membership to socialize with the students and families involved in both our European and our Asian student exchanges. The brightness and lively excitement of the students is always fun and refreshing.

We are into the early planning stages for BSCA's hosting this year's statewide Sister City Conference, to take place on October 22nd at the South Bellevue Community Center. Holding it right here in Bellevue will make it easier for any BSCA member to attend all or any part of that Saturday get-together and a proposed Friday evening reception. Our next newsletter should update you on the state of the conference planning.

Beyond these normal programs and events, BSCA clearly needs "fresh blood"—new and younger members and a freshening of our board (from the presidency on down) with new go-getters and dedicated doers to help boost this organization back to the level of activity and member involvement that we had before geriatrification and the actuarial realities of life began taking such a toll on us. We have been hugely blessed to have Heidi Ressler, originally "just" a host mom for a Kladno exchange student, come onto the board and contribute greatly to our planning discussions. So, keep an eye out for who might help refresh our membership and become dedicated to serving actively on the board. We need your help in this.

## From Liepaja —Ligita Pudza is moving on

We are saddened to know that Ligita, our main contact at the Liepaja City Hall, decided to move to Riga and closer to her aging parents. She writes:



*Dear friends,*

*After more than two decades in Liepaja I've decided to move back to Riga this summer and June 30 will be my last day of work at Liepaja City Council. I want to thank each of you for co-operation - I've known some of you for almost 20 years and have met on several occasions, but have got to*

*know some of you just recently via phone and emails. Nevertheless I want to say that I enjoyed working with all of you and this "Liepaja period" will remain important part of my life.*

*I am very pleased to introduce **Natalja Vecvagare**, who will take over my duties as of July 15. Some of you may remember her from earlier years - Natalja worked at the Liepaja City Council Foreign relations department of from summer 2003 to summer 2006. Natalja speaks English, Russian and also German and French, so you have a wide choice of languages how to communicate with her !*

## Delegation Visit to Liepaja and Kladno Postponed to next spring

This visit has been postponed several times and it will be postponed once again—from the beginning things just did not seem to fall into place—the airfares were not what we expected, prospective delegates were not sure of their plans... and there were more "not at this time" responses—and several "maybe next spring?" comments. So, yes, we are putting this off to end of May or beginning of June.

Several of us have planned trips to Europe this fall and will be stopping in one or the other of our Sister Cities to deliver greetings from Bellevue.



★ macy's

The Community Shopping Day at Macy's on Saturday, May 14th, through the generosity of Macy's customers and the efforts of their sales associates, raised nearly \$150,000 to support local participating non-profit organizations adjacent to the eight participating stores in the northwest region. We qualified for a percent of the funds raised in the Bellevue store based on the submissions of raffle stubs in the enter-to-win box in addition to selling tickets and volunteering at the event—and have received a check for \$648.18 in addition to the funds raised through our ticket sales. This fundraising

campaign was sponsored and made possible by Macy's and the charitable giving of Macy's customers and our participation was made possible by the volunteer efforts of Heidi Ressler, Gary Winchester, Eureka and Viroon Lim, Hugh Burleson and Inta Gotelli. **THANK YOU ALL!**

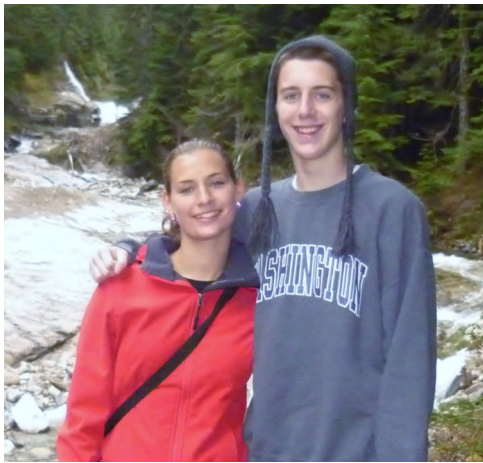
## BSCA Summer Student Exchange—2011

Continuing our long standing tradition, on Monday, June 27th the exchange students to and from Kladno and Liepaja were introduced to the members of the Bellevue City Council. And, as also has become a tradition, the students, along with parents Claire Petersky and David Roberts and BSCA members Heidi Ressler and Inta Gotelli, enjoyed some companionable time over pizza at the California Pizza Kitchen prior to meeting the Council Members.

The students to and from Yao and Hualien spend the first part of their experience in our Sister Cities and will meet the Council members later this summer.



From left to right: Eliska, Christine, David, Samanta, Petra and Emma



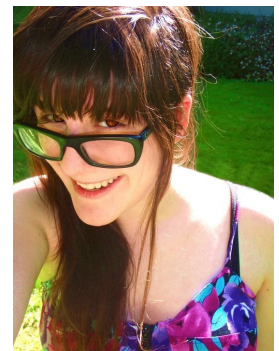
**To KLADNO—Eliott Roberts** – son of David and Meredith Roberts of Issaquah will be a Junior at Skyline High School next year. His older sister also participated in our summer exchange program. He is active in sports playing and coaching basketball, likes traveling and plays the piano. He's participates in the DECA (business) program at school, and has studied 3 years of Spanish. His goal is to study business at UW, then go on to law school and eventually work as a sports agent. He was born in England and lived there before the family returned to the US, and has traveled to Canada and Central America.

**FROM KLADNO—Eliska Machackova** daughter Vlasimir Hachacek and Lenka Machackova of Kladno, Czech Republic is a student at the Kladno Gymnasium. They live in the country where they have lots of animals, but also have a house in Kladno. Besides English, she also speaks French and has participated in Math competitions. She likes sports – her brother plays hockey and her father is a coach – as well as fashion and music. She hopes to go on to the University to study international business or diplomacy and work for the United Nations or the European Union.

**To KLADNO—Emma Petersky** – daughter of David Levine and Claire Petersky of Bellevue will be a Junior at Interlake HS next year. She plays bass trombone, tuba and sousaphone. She has been involved with Bellevue Youth Theater since age 6 and has written and directed plays for Matchbox Theatre, a 100% teen theatre company. She's interested in politics, was part of the Mock Congress. Her interests range from fashion to science fiction, history, travel, sociology. Besides 5 years of Spanish, she reads and writes Hebrew. She plans to go on to college to study History and looks forward to a career in teaching or history research.



**FROM KLADNO—Petra Vorackova** – daughter of Zbynek Voracek and Daniela Varackova of Kladno, Czech Republic is a student at the Kladno Gymnasium. She likes art, photography and filmmaking, but also likes new exciting experiences. She hopes to go on to University to design school especially photography, but also is interested in investigative journalism. She has travelled in Europe and hopes to be able to travel extensively in the future. She has a job in Prague selling city tours, and is a scout leader.



## BSCA Summer Student Exchange—2011—continued



To Liepaja: **Christine Corbitt** (on the left) daughter of Karen Corbitt of Bellevue will be a Senior at Issaquah High School next year. She speaks Spanish, participates in drama and choir, plays the violin and plays and teaches piano. She's also involved in youth activities and has been a youth camp leader. She has traveled in Canada and Mexico and looks forward to her stay in Europe.

From Liepaja: **Samanta Kaleja** daughter of Sandijs Kalejs and Gunita Kaleja is a Junior at the Liepaja Secondary School #5. Besides 9 years of English, she's studied Russian and German is interested in geography, and attends a program for young geographers. She likes art and has participated in drawing competitions. She has travelled in Europe including a two week stay with a family in Sweden. She plans to go on to University to study English and eventually become an interpreter.

**TO HUALIEN—Scott Corbitt** son of Karen Corbitt will be in 10th grade the coming school year at Issaquah High School. He is an Eagle Scout and led a kid's camp last summer, and spent 3 weeks in the Scout Jamboree through New York, Pennsylvania, Washington DC and Virginia. He likes swimming, hiking, and also music—besides choir he plays the violin and piano. He plans on engineering and programming in robotics in college, but is also interested in political science. His part time jobs include dog and cat sitting and mowing lawns and gardening. He is one of five in the family, his sister Christine is the exchange student this year to Liepaja.



**FROM HUALIEN-** Che-Feng Yang son of Tzu-Fang Hsu is an only child. He has 8 years of English, likes drawing and music but has not yet learned to play an instrument. He has traveled to China, Japan, Palau, Hawaii and also to America. His mother is a teacher and he hopes to be an English teacher.

**TO YAO—Bianca Blanch (pictured)** will be a senior next school year at Juanita H.S., where she is a member of the Japanese club, a book club and the junior cabinet. She has now completed four years of Japanese language study. Last summer, she joined a student group from her Japanese teacher's class in a two-week visit to Japan that included a brief home stay.

**FROM YAO—Ranna Hatashita**, a 16-year-old at Yamamoto High School. She is in her school's dance club and enjoys movies, music, reading and shopping. Her e-mails indicate that her English skills are well above average. Her father is a member of BSCA's Yao counterpart organization.



### Bellevue/Yao Entry among the 10 best at the 2011 Young Artists Showcase

*Our congratulations to Haruka Ikeda! The theme for this year's showcase was Shaping Your Community for a Greener Future. In her entry Haruka expressed a world where children in the world were able to coexist with animals and plants peacefully. Children can live freely. I want animals and plants not to be threatened by the extinction.*

We are pleased that one of our entries is again among those selected as the 10 best. Yao has participated in this event every year for as long as most of us remember and has had its entries among the best several times before. And usually every year there is one or more entries from Japan among those selected. We look forward to next year's showcase and hope that there might be art works from Bellevue to submit.

