



General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, September 11, 2012
Bellevue City Hall 7:30 p.m.

Welcome Back Our Returning Exchange Students

As is our tradition, at this fall meeting, we welcome back our Summer Exchange students and look forward to hearing from them the highlights of their summer. We appreciate the time these students have spent helping us further our mission of international understanding. We also thank the families who make this exchange possible - both here and in our sister cities. It is always our pleasure to meet these exceptional students and their families—and we hope this experience will be among those they remember always.

So—a HUGE thank you Larry and Christin Fry and Dustin, Lee and Karen Kranz and Emily, and Scott and Karen Green and Raleigh —we appreciate all of you!

2012 Washington Sister Cities Annual Conference
Saturday, October 6th in Spokane, WA

Spokane SCA would like to invite all to this fall's WA State Meeting in Spokane. They plan to highlight activities by Sister Cities programs throughout the state based on the 3-tiered approach to Sister Cities' goal of peace through international exchange - Cultural Exchange, Education Exchange, and Business Exchange. They will be featuring their student exchange and are looking for programs involving cultural exchange or business exchange to step up and talk about their successes and challenges.

Spokane will be sharing the experiences of representatives from their high school exchange program, and the panel will also include a representative from Nishinomiya's Board of Education.

This annual event It is a time for all WA Sister Cities to network, to share experiences, to learn of projects and programs. We hosted last year's conference and we'll be there for this one.

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.

From Your President

End of Summer/early Fall greetings to all! You must be feeling a bit odd from the lack of rainfall and instead inundation from the outpouring of intense political rhetoric. Let's focus instead on ginning up BSCA's activities for the coming year.

By the time you receive this newsletter, your Yao Committee colleagues will be immersed in the Japanese Fall Festival at Bellevue College, manning our booth there to kick off BSCA's annual publicity on our 2013 Student Exchange. That program was also one of our topics at our late August board meeting, as—with so many summer activities available to today's students—we realize we must begin recruiting candidates earlier than in the recent past.

Not only earlier, but also with better focus and intensity to get the best choice of candidates. In the past few years, we have lucked out by having excellent candidates come forward. But, we cannot count on that always being the case. Each BSCA member should take an interest and offer help and your ideas and insights on ways to improve this and our other programs.

At the annual Washington State sister-cities conferences, we often hear and discuss other cities' ideas on such programs. This year, the conference will be in Spokane on October 6 (Saturday); and at least Inta and I plan to drive across this fair state to attend. That's two vehicles with only three occupants (with David Gotelli riding shotgun with Inta). So, we'll have space for four or five more of you should you be interested in attending. It will mean an overnight stay. Please give it some thought.

At our board meeting, we also began talking up having a third social/cultural event (besides our year-end party and summer picnic): a mini-festival of feature films or documentaries from each country where our four sister cities are located. Still gestating, this concept will need more good ideas, hopefully from regular members, too, to help develop it into an appealing and successful event.

Finally, with airfares skyrocketing recently, BSCA's financial reserves have been falling faster in recent years; and we must give higher priority to holding a fundraiser in 2013. You may take this as a call for good ideas. Long-time members, please keep in mind that we have only about half the manpower that we had 10~15 years ago. So, very labor-intensive fundraising could be hard to carry out.

SAVE THE DATE

Bellevue—Liepaja

A Celebration of 20 years of Friendship
Reception at Bellevue City Hall
Friday, December 14, 2012

Japanese Fall Festival 2012 Aki Matsuri

Saturday, September 8 (10 a.m. - 6 p.m.)

Sunday, September 9 (11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Bellevue College Main Campus, Bellevue

<http://enma.org/2012/overview.htm>

The Eastside Nihon Matsuri Association again brings "Japan to the Bellevue College for a weekend!" A two-day program of Japanese cultural and educational events for all ages.

Watch on-stage [Performing Arts](#), [Martial Art demonstrations](#) by local dojo members, [J-Pop performances](#), [Puppet Shows](#) based on Japanese Folk Tales, Tea Ceremony, [Ikebana demonstrations](#) and more than 75 [exhibit booths](#), and workshops ([bonsai](#), [shakuhachi](#), and [taiko](#)). Browse through "[Nomi-no-ichi ... a Japanese style flea market](#)" to make a lucky find! Meet with Aki Matsuri Mascot and friends!

Don't miss the BSCA-Yao committee's booth!

**Next General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, November 13th**

Back in 2002 when Cheryl Kuhn visited Liepaja on her staff exchange, she brought along some coloring books that the City of Bellevue provides the schools at the beginning of each year. It is one of the ideas that took off in Liepaja - and on September 1st all Liepaja first graders will receive a coloring book. This is the 10th year coloring books have been distributed to the schools - and every year they have had a special theme featuring aspects of life in Liepaja - important events, historic places, recreational activities, etc. always with emphasis on safety. This year the theme is sports - and the young students will not only have sport scenes to color, but along with their teachers, will read about how to safely participate.



BSCA Summer Student Exchange—2012

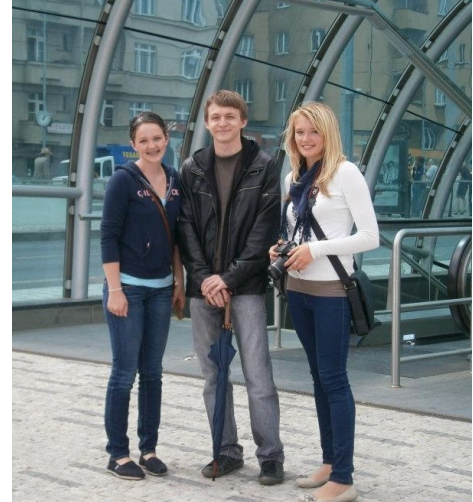


Liepaja—Dustin Fry writes: Spending two months with a boy from halfway across the globe was an interesting and enriching experience. I enjoyed introducing a foreigner to the beautiful places and people the Northwest has to offer. It helped me to appreciate the beauty around me that I generally take for granted. Living with Janis' family in the center of Liepaja was like gaining a window into the lives of a distant people. His family was accommodating and his friends, although sometimes hesitant to speak English, were pleasant and kind. Latvia is a beautiful country with a vibrant culture and history. I was reminded of

this every day as I went on various excursions and day trips around Liepaja and to nearby cities. Perhaps, one day, I'll return to visit Janis and his family. *(with Janis mom at arrival in Riga)*

Emily Kranz - Klado, Czech Republic—My trip to Klado was amazing. I saw many things I would have never had the opportunity to see if weren't for my host family. They were extremely thoughtful, and very welcoming. One of my favorite experiences throughout my whole three weeks in Europe was going to Prague Castle. The architecture of the cathedral was so beautiful. I loved the experience of going to another country and seeing

what it was like being part of their everyday lives. I am so thankful I had this opportunity. *(Emily with Joseph and friend)*



Raleigh Green—Yao—The time I spent in Yao, Japan was the most thrilling experience I have ever had. I was welcomed by many BSCA affiliated friends, including the Mayor of Yao. The people, culture, food, and lifestyle was so different, but beyond amazing. It is a very respectful country. My host mom introduced me to many ancient and modern Japanese traditions. I enjoyed my entire host family and new found international friends. They were fun and lovely to be around.

My most memorable event was my visit to the four story aquarium in Osaka with my host brother and three past Yao exchange students. I can't wait to visit Japan again in the future and experience more trips to expand my knowledge of the language and culture. Domo Arigato *(Raleigh and Takashi with... alien...)*

2013 Young Artists and Authors Showcase Theme *The Power of Exchange*

What does this mean to you? Sister city relationships foster partnerships within the community and between international cities, counties, and states. Whether in person, online, or through the mail, exchanges of people and ideas facilitate community development and educational opportunities. Through 2D media illustrate the long-term impact that exchanges have had on yourself or your community. How have one or both changed for the better?

As usual, 10 Finalists will be selected and these pieces will be displayed at the *Sister Cities International* 2013 Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX. One U.S. artist and one international artist will be selected as overall winners. We hope that as in the past BSCA will have entries to submit!

Applications and information at: <http://www.sister-cities.org/young-artists-and-authors-showcase>

BSCA Summer Picnic and More

With glorious sunny warm weather BSCA members again met at the Bellevue Botanical Garden to visit with other members and to meet our exchange students and their families. We enjoyed meeting our Liepaja and Kladno students, Dustin Fry and Emily Kranz, their parents and Janis Jostmanis from Liepaja and Josef Štec from Kladno. They were all off to Europe a few days later—all on the same flight as far as Amsterdam!



Later this summer Florence and Hugh along with Raleigh Green's parents met her and Takashi Fujimoto on their arrival from Yao. And Yao committee members enjoyed meeting them all at Florence's over dinner.



Exchange Students from our Past

A recent e-mail received by Hugh Burleson started with "My name is Pixie Dunn and I was the host family for Kaoru Kuboi in 1989 when my daughter, Christie Dunn, was the Bellevue exchange student that same year." That was 23 years ago!

Hugh and a few other BSCA members met Pixie, Kaoru and her 10 year old daughter for lunch and shared memories. "She was an amazing and very bright girl when we hosted her. She, literally, flew off the airplane to meet us and embraced everything American while she was here. Her language skills improved at a rate that surprised us. There was much weeping at the airport when she left.. she wanted to stay longer!"

Of Christine's exchange experience Pixie says "It was such a special experience for Christie and set her on a path that has led to her career. After college she taught English in Japan for two years and then returned to take her Masters in Higher Education Administration and works at Texas A&M University in the school of Liberal Arts as the International Programs Manager.

Since the summer of the exchange, not only the girls, but the families have kept in touch with visits back and forth over the years, and we're pleased that Pixie shared this visit with us.