



Bellevue-Hualien Celebrated 30 years in style! Our Fu Dogs are finally home

This was an event long planned for... ever since the two Fu Dogs arrived back in 2010 with a promised visit by Hualien officials to follow. With the recent visit of Hualien's first lady, Zhang Mei-Hui, accompanied by Hualien city officials and business leaders it was time for them to finally leave their 'kennel' in Kent and take up their rightful place at City Hall.

BSCA members and Bellevue City staff put in many hours planning for this event, with Mayor Lee personally urging all to "think big" and turn the



dedication of the Fu Dogs into a major celebration of 30 years of Bellevue-Hualien friendship. Then TECO and the Taiwanese community came on board adding performances by many cultural and performing arts groups to the celebration.



And what an EVENT it was! Starting with the 'awakening' of the Fu Dogs, the Lion Dancers, speeches and performances—a day to remember. More on page 3.

Delegation Visit to Liepaja and Kladno—September 12-23, 2013

We are looking forward to this long awaited delegation visit! Deputy Mayor Jennifer Robertson will lead the delegation and will be accompanied by her husband and mother. Delegation members will be meeting in Riga on September 13th to make our way to Liepaja and Kladno.

It is **NOT TOO LATE** to contact either Gregg or Inta (gschrader@bellevuewa.gov or intabg@comcast.net) and let them know if you decide that this visit will fit in your September travel plans!

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 Burluson Secretary—Gary Winchester Newsletter Editor—Inta Gotelli
Check our website for updates! <http://www.bellevuesistercities.org/>

From Your President

Well, fellow BSCAers, the Hualien 30 year celebration was an *EVENT* like we haven't seen in quite a while! With huge support and intensive planning from City Hall, the local Chinese community and a handful of our own members, the Fu Dogs-guardian lions came out of storage, were properly "awakened" to their duties and were entertained in the July 29th dedication on the City Hall plaza.

What has been missing for some time in our programs and activities was readily apparent that last Monday in July: our outreach into the community and the community's wholehearted response. Lesson learned. Also, in the dedicated and unremitting efforts of one of our younger members—Eureka Lim—we saw what is possible when youthful vigor and knowledge of the community are brought to bear.

We must get rejuvenated—find new, younger members ready to volunteer for board duty. For some time, tongue in cheek, I have been calling myself "the illegal" president of BSCA. I'm serving in my 8th year; and Inta is in her 10th year as Treasurer. Experience on the job is valuable; but at some point we lose the fresh edge that can help an organization keep growing and evolving with the times. We must redouble efforts to increase membership so that we can resume the normal practice of rotation of board members.

So, even if you—our current members—do not feel ready to become active and take on responsibility as board members, please help with bringing in new members, especially ones who might be willing and able to join the board. Pretty please! That kind of organizational *esprit* can help BSCA to sustain the sense of momentum that is vital to this worthwhile activity.



Remembering Karlis Bets

As so many of his contemporaries, Karlis led a checkered life—during WWII he found himself in Germany, then as a refugee in England. He emigrating to Canada, and at age 26, as an electronic communication specialist he got a job with an American firm—at the North Pole. Then came 10 years of working for American firms in Europe. He eventually moved to Seattle—and was part of the Bellevue-Liepaja sister city work group.

Says Cheryl Kuhn, then Sister City liaison, "*Karlis called or visited Bellevue City Hall nearly every day in the 1990-92 timeframe -- not only to promote the sister city affiliation, but also to obtain information for Liepaja*

on establishing up-to-date technology. While visiting Liepaja, he would even keep in touch with Bellevue by calling from aboard ships in the harbor. Here in the U.S., I know he also called on high tech firms to request donations and, at one point, did obtain a donation of ArcInfo (GIS mapping) software for the City of Liepaja. I consider him one of the patriots of Latvian independence."

And when in 1994 he went to visit his native city—Liepaja—his three sisters and family... he decided to stay. He met Olga and made his home there. Along with his nephew Anrdis Grigis he started several businesses including the beer brewery "LIVU alus". Karlis passed away April 13, 2013.

Next General Membership Meeting Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Our Europe delegation will share their experiences in Liepaja and Kladno
(this in lieu of our usual September and November meetings)

Japanese Fall Festival 16th Annual AKI MATSURI

Saturday, September 7th—10am-6pm
Sunday, September 8th—10am-4:30pm
Bellevue College Main Campus
<http://enma.org/2013/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.

As each year, the Yao committee will have a booth at the festival—this year with emphasis on our student exchange.

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

If you have not done so yet, please consider sending in your dues for fiscal year March 1, 2013 – Feb. 28, 2014. Dues are **\$30 individual or \$50 family** plus an extra \$10 for additional committees. And consider adding a donation to support student exchange or for the Liepaja special school playground. We depend on you to keep us in the black—and remember, dues are tax deductible.

Make our your check to BSCA mail to: Inta Gotelli, 18911 SE 44th Way, Issaquah, WA 98027

Bellevue-Hualien Celebrate 30 years



On the morning of July 29th, the celebrations began. First the rite of “awakening” the guardian lions—bringing the assembled dignitaries and audience to full alert, the Fire Chief lit a long string of firecrackers—which are traditional at major Chinese events. Then, with the chief of the Lion Dancers supervising, Mayor Lee used a brush and fresh ginger-root juice to anoint the eyes, mouth, paws and head of the male Fu Dog. Madame Zhang, did the same for the female. Immediately, eight dancers in four large and colorful “lion” costumes “awoke” and rose to perform, while drums and gongs spurred them on.

There followed speeches—Mayor Lee, Director General Andy Chin of the Taiwan Economic & Cultural Office (TECO) in Seattle and Madame Zhang. And after flowers for the lady and photo-taking, all proceeded to the

City Hall concourse for lunch, Chinese style while entertained with music and dances.

The entertainment continued after lunch — Children and the master of the local Shaolin Martial Arts School, fashion modeling by the Forever Charming Chinese Modeling School, solo performances on Chinese instruments by members of the Seattle Chinese Orchestra, folk dancing by the Seattle folk Dance Group, a dance and taiko drumming performance by Tacoma’s Okinawa Club and dancing and percussion by the Sin Moug Percussion Arts Group of Korea.



All in all, a veritable festival of Chinese culture!



The Hualien delegation, accompanied by Bang Hwang, then proceeded to Microsoft for brief tour of original campus and a tour of its Digi-Pen institute, where staff take a 4-year course on creating computer games. And on to an evening at Top Gun Restaurant in Factoria, where all enjoyed a fabulous meal (was it ten courses?), co-hosted by the City, BSCA, TECO and some from the local Chinese community. It was hugely successful and convivial.

Their final day, with Eureka Lim and Bang as guides, the Hualien delegation toured the

Everett Boeing plant and visited some Seattle highlights— Pike street Market and the ‘flying fish’- and were suitably impressed by the Chihuly Garden and Glass exhibit at the Seattle Center.



We all owe a huge THANK YOU to Eureka Lim for her well-executed planning of much of this activity. Al-



so to Bellevue City’s Art Director, Mary Pat Byrne and to Tom Boydell City’s Economic Development chief, both of whom spent endless hours planning and working on the details of this visit. Of course, to Mayor Conrad Lee, who

pushed for making this the major event that was.

See additional pictures on our website, as well as the City of Bellevue website, and footage from the event should be on the TV channel that carries Bellevue City Council meetings and other local news.

Reception for Honorary Consul Wayne Jehlik

Wayne was our invited speaker to the May general meeting, and so we could do no less than to be present at this special evening reception on June 28th—the official opening of the Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic in Seattle, opened under the auspices of His Excellency Tomáš Chalupa, Minister of the Environment of the Czech Republic and His Excellency Petr Gandalovič, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States

There was an overflowing crowd and among those present were Bellevue Mayor Conrad Lee, BSCA president Hugh Burluson, members of our Kladno committee Dorothy Webb accompanied by one of her daughters, Rosie Bodien, Gregg Schrader and friend Abigail, Heidi Ressler and a couple of friends, Inta Gotelli—all at a BSCA table no less!

For the slide show that ran throughout the ceremony we had provided pictures of BSCA-Kladno activities — some from our last Kladno delegation visit and from some of our exchange students. The CCCE—Center of Czech Culture and Education can count on BSCA support!



Our Annual Summer Picnic

With July weather cooperating, BSCA members again gathered for our traditional summer picnic—this time in a new location due to construction at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. We met at the visitor center at Lewis Creek Park—and chatted outside until our keeper of the key found his way there. Nice facility and we enjoyed perusing the various exhibits—including a map tracking the local sightings of wild-life—bears and cougars among them.



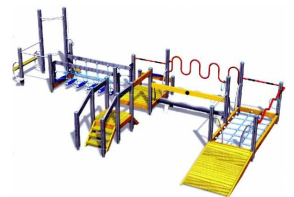
As usual an amazing amount of tasty dishes was provided by the members present. Among those present were also Mayor Conrad Lee and Tom Boydell from the City—and this event provided an opportunity to discuss the planning for the upcoming BIG event—see front page.



We missed having exchange students present—but this year we had very few applications, and unfortunately students we felt needed another year or two before participating. We encourage you all to help bring attention to this unique program to families you might know with high school students at home.

Donations for the Liepaja Special School Playground *Update*

Our goal is to reach the \$12,000 that would put the main piece of equipment in place and ready for the students in September when school starts—WE ARE GETTING THERE... Check out the site below to watch the video featuring the school—playground ‘in progress’ shown at the beginning and end. To date through the Projekt Karma website \$4,665 has been donated and another \$2,625 donations have been sent directly to BSCA. We are very near \$8000 with funds from previous year donations. Please donate and share the Projekt Karma website or the information on the BSCA website with friends. **Donate at <http://www.projektkarma.com/projekts/page/pid/91>.**



We thank these additional donors to date: Bruce Knofel forwarded \$1000 from his friend Tracy Tucker, the Latvian Association of Washington added \$300 to this fund and other checks directly to us came from Lisa M Knofel, Shaun M. Sehl, Zinta Kulits, Imants and Maija Ikstrums, Velma Lagerstrom. Donations received through the Projekt Karma site: Mark and Julie Mitman, Keith Hamilton, Beatrice Mitman, Dr. Atis Freimanis, and Sharalyn Ayala. friends. **THANK YOU ALL!**