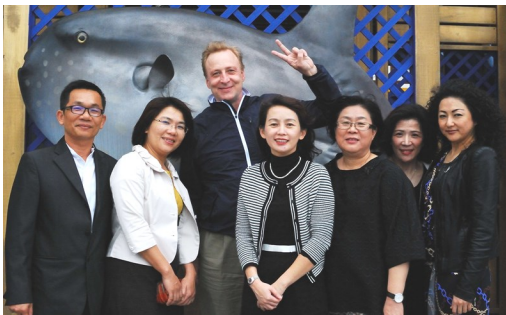




May - June 2014  
Volume 129

## Membership Meeting Tuesday, May 13, 2014 Bellevue City Hall 7:30 p.m.

This month we have two short programs highlighting our Asian Sister Cities



**Tom Boydell** recently spent his vacation time in Hualien at the invitation from the Mayor of Hualien and his wife. He delivered greetings to our sister city from the Bellevue City Council and BSCA. Tom met with Hualien Mayor and city representatives as well as BSCA friends. He also met the members of the Hualien delegation who visited Bellevue last summer including Hualien Mayors wife—center in picture. Besides Hualien itself, he visited Taroko Gorge—a favorite place from past delegation visits.

Tom's impressions of his visit— *I loved the people of Taiwan. I was impressed by how generous hearted everyone is. And impressed by how much the Bellevue relationship means to them. I really saw the deeply profound value of sister cities.*

After six years with the Department of Economic Development at City of Bellevue, part of that time as the liaison between the city and BSCA, he is leaving for a position with Greater China USA.

During the year **Bill Bockman** spent in Japan he had the opportunity to bike one of the of the world's most remarkable cycleways - along the **Shimanami Kaido**. It took Bill 3 days to cover the 90 mile route over the Seto Inland Sea that connects Japan's main island of Honshu to the island of Shikoku passing over six small islands. The dedicated cycle route follows a series of architecturally imaginative suspension bridges including the Kurushima-Kaikyo Bridge which is the longest series of suspension spans in the world totaling 2.49 miles. The route is extremely scenic and the design features to make it bicycle accessible make it almost assuredly the most expensive bike path in the world.



### 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—Gregg Schrader Secretary—Gary Winchester Newsletter Editor—Inta Gotelli  
Check Facebook or our website for updates! <http://www.bellevuesistercities.org/>

## From Your Editor

Don't miss our May General Meeting! With planning beginning for the upcoming delegation visit to our Asian Sister Cities this is just in time. Tom Boydell just returned from Hualien where he was treated to a royal welcome and will share of his impressions. Bill Bockman spent a year back in 2010 in Japan, and will share with us one of the amazing bike tours he had the opportunity to experience.

As for the delegation visit—we defer to Hualien's request to postpone the visit to next spring due to the mayor running for reelection in December. We are looking at the end of May 2015 as a good possibility—more on the back page.

In the meantime, look forward to meeting our exchange students—we will have one student heading to Kladno and two to Yao this summer.

Our Liepaja committee has met its goal for funding the play equipment for the Ann Knofel playground at the Liepaja Special School! Now to get it ordered and installed.

Last but not least—PLEASE send in your dues—see back page—we need your support if we are to meet our financial obligations and still be able to support our student exchange. We need fundraising ideas!!!

## Brad Miyake Travels to Japan

Bellevue acting city manager Brad Miyake recently spent a week in Japan as one of this year's 10 Japanese American delegates selected to participate in the Japanese American Leadership Delegation (JALD) program. Established in 2000, each year JALD selects a group of Japanese American leaders from across the U.S. to travel to Japan and meet with Japanese business, government, academic, non-profit and cultural leaders. This also allows Japanese leaders to gain a greater understanding of multi-cultural America through their interaction with a diverse group of Japanese Americans. Brad was the 10<sup>th</sup> participant selected from Washington State (Lori Matsukawa in 2005) See more at:

<http://www.usjapanCouncil.org/programs/program/JALD>

This year's participants spent two days in Fukuoka in the Kyushu region meeting with Governor Hiroshi Ogawa and other government leaders before heading to Tokyo, where they met government officials, had discussions with leaders across many fields, visited Japan's National Diet (the country's legislature), met princess Takamado, a member of the Japanese royal family and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Not all was work - Brad also explored the dense city of Tokyo surprised by the "organized chaos" and cleanliness. He visited the fish market, rode the bullet train and ate traditional Japanese ramen - a favorite. Brad is a third generation Japanese American but this was his first visit to Japan - and a week to experience the pull of his cultural roots.

*Brad - we at BSCA hope you won't wait too long for your next visit to Japan and join our upcoming delegation visit to Yao and Hualien.*

*AND—the City Council selected Brad to be the new City Manager.*

## Welcome new member!

We first met **Juli Hills** at the Washington State SC meeting in Tacoma last fall—she was there as a member of the Seattle-Christ Church New Zealand Sister City... but she lives in Bellevue. No reason one can't belong to more than one Sister City group—and we're pleased Juli agrees.

## BSCA Annual Picnic

Saturday, July 12 4:00-7:00pm  
Bellevue Botanical Garden

YES—we're Back!!! The Grand Opening of the new Education and Visitor Center will be June 14 -15. Construction began last May with a completion date of Fall 2014—and it is done sooner!!! Lucky for us!

More picnic information in the next newsletter—but we do need volunteers to help Florence—but at age 90 she is still going strong... but we need to keep her that way! Please call Florence at 425-746-2853 and let her know that you'll be there to set up, clean up, etc.

As usual, our summer picnic will be a pot luck—and remember this is a good time to invite family and friends to meet our exchange students and see what's new at the BBG.



## Greetings from the Liepaja Special School

Recently we received an update from Kaiva Zimante, vice-principal of the school, telling us about the many activities the students have participated in to date this year. Of the 239 students enrolled in the school, 128 of them are in the C group (Ceribu—Latvian for Hope). The 71 teachers keep students busy, not only with learning activities but having students participate in sports, celebrating holidays and other fun events.



Winter Olympics? They organized their own Special Olympics on site...



Celebrating holidays is a must. Christmas is a favorite and preparing for it means making lots and lots of 'piparkukas' - special cookies only made for this occasion. A note here—one of our early packages to the school was a variety of spices needed for these—and not readily available back then... And time to again bring out the Santa



Claus suit—an enduring gift from



Liepaja members,

This year the school participated in the local school music festival



—and if course—there was Valentine's Day.

Next will be Easter and Mother's Day.

*And along with students and teachers we look forward to the completion of the Ann Knofel playground—look for more information soon.*



## Czechoslovak Bohemian Boudoir at Tacoma Glass Museum

It was a dream come true for Kladno member Rosie Bodien to have her collection of perfume bottles featured in a special exhibit at the Tacoma Glass museum, and to have so many Czech visitors and friends in attendance on the special day reserved for them.

Carla Furukawa and a friend were among those present—she says:

*It was an elegant affair with homemade desserts, coffee, teas, fruits, the Czech community and perfume bottles! The perfume bottles were glass encased according to their color. Rosie gave an excellent informative dialogue about how she got started collecting the perfume bottles. She talked about certain pieces, what makes some more valuable than others and where they*

*are going after this event. The family will choose what they want and the rest will be donated.*

*It was a beautiful sunny day and a great exhibit! As we left the exhibit, the Daffodil boat parade was going on. The daffodil princesses were on elaborately decorated boats waving to the people on shore.*

## 2014 Young Artists and Authors Showcase

### *Connect globally. Thrive locally.*

We are pleased to again forward an entry from Yao to SCI. Yao young artist Kako Otnai writes: *I painted this picture with the following intention 'If we live in unity around the world we are filled with hope and flowers come out'. All the people chained with flower ring will get excited, generally wear a smile on each face and the world will be bright.*

As usual, 10 finalists will be selected—five US and 5 international and these will be displayed at the *Sister Cities International 2013 Annual Conference* in San Jose, CA. One U.S. artist and one international artist will be selected as overall winners.



### **From your Treasurer Please send in your dues!**

A huge thank you to the half of our membership who have already sent in their dues and especially to those who included a contribution to a committee.

Dues remain the same—\$30 individual, \$50 family, but for the next year all dues go to Association. In the past we have split dues between Association and committees – unfortunately with our membership having declined from over 100 members to around 60, we need to make adjustments to make sure our dues cover the operating expenses – the main one being the insurance the City requires us to carry.

**And we need help!** A bigger problem is our dwindling project funds We have known for several years that a fundraiser is needed... we know we don't have the people to do another dinner auction... your board welcomes any ideas and help to raise some funds.

Inta Gotelli—[intabg@comcast.net](mailto:intabg@comcast.net)

## Delegation visit to our Asian Sister Cities

Even if it is still a whole year away, we need to start planning for the visit to Hualien and Yao—coordinate schedules with City Council—an official delegation is led by the Mayor or a representative—and officials in both Sister Cities.

The official part of a visit is usually about 10 days with 3 days in each city, travel time and stopovers—a couple of days in Taipei usually.

Besides the official part, we often plan some additional sightseeing—sometimes as a group if there is enough interest—or on your own.

### ***Please support our business members!***

For many years now we have counted on two faithful business members to make our travel plans—for student exchanges, delegation visits and our personal travel plans as well.

Katsumi Mamiya at **K-Mans Travel Expert** for travel to Asia 425-373-5686

Elise Lalor at **Rainier World Travel** for travel to Europe 425-392-9970