

Annual Membership Picnic **Saturday, July 13, 2014** **Bellevue Botanical Garden 4:00-6:30 p.m.** **Class A meeting room— serving starts at 4:30**

We are back at the Bellevue Botanical Garden - this time in the just opened new visitor center - a spacious building that opens to surrounding gardens. We will be using one of the new multi-purpose classrooms that open up to the extensive new landscaping. Besides improvements to the existing gardens new gardens have been created and named: The Sun Courtyard, Spring Court and Iris Rain Garden. And an expanded parking lot with convenient access! Come early, help set up and explore and enjoy the gardens.

Please volunteer for set up and/or clean up. Let Florence know at 425-746-2853 or flometcalf@comcast.net



“Bellwether” - Bellevue’s biennial sculpture exhibition



Opening on June 27th, the 12th edition of Bellevue’s much celebrated biennial sculpture exhibition features 30-plus artworks, selected by a panel of artists and curators from a pool of more than 200 applications. Organized by the city’s Arts Program, the exhibitions started in 1992 as the Bellevue Sculpture Exhibition and has since grown to be one of the city’s summer highlights. Free maps of the three-quarter mile walking route, connecting City Hall with Downtown Park a well as catalogs will be available at City Hall.

Kladno Mayor to visit Bellevue

BSCA and the City of Bellevue will be welcoming Lord Mayor Dan Jiránek and his wife July 21-28th. Besides the activities at City Hall and sightseeing, time for socializing is also planned. A reception open to all will be held at City Hall on Tuesday, July 22nd. More information to follow as scheduling is finalized. Please let Gregg Schrader know if you would like to participate in planning.

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 Editor

The last several months have been difficult ones for BSCA as we watched our long term president, Hugh Burleson, struggle with health issues. For so many years he had been the public face of BSCA, sharing his knowledge and understanding of our 'people-to-people diplomacy' mission.

Besides BSCA, Hugh also was instrumental in the work of other organizations, among them the Japan America Society of Washington and of course, each year we would see him at Bellevue College during the Eastside Aki Matsuri.



Florence and Hugh at the 2013 Aki Matsuri

As chair of the Yao, Japan committee, Florence Metcalf worked closely with him and misses his support. In her words:

"Hugh Burleson was the backbone of the Bellevue-Yao, Japan Sister City program for many years and will be sorely missed. He was a gentle man and a true scholar of "things Japanese". He not only knew and loved the customs and culture of the Japanese, but spoke the language fluently... at proper "levels" - whether it was the Consulate General or the tofu peddler! A true indication of *THE MAKING OF A PACIFIC CITIZEN* the title of his autobiography.

He loved Japan, and here in the Puget Sound attended events when the word "Japan" appeared. His home was filled with books and treasures.

Hugh and I may have unknowingly rubbed shoulders in the overcrowded Yokohama Army PX during the Occupation years...1946-49, but it wasn't until a few years ago that we finally met at a BSCA meeting here in Bellevue! It was a pleasure to reminisce those important years with him. His knowledge of Japan has greatly influenced the YAO - Bellevue Sister City Program, and with one voice we say "he was a pleasure to have known."

Bellevue City Council presents Commendation for Hugh Burleson

Acknowledging Hugh Burleson's contributions to the City of Bellevue, Mayor Claudia Balducci, at the City Council Meeting on June 16th, presented a Commendation for Hugh (attached)

"for his leadership, dedication, and service to the Bellevue Sister City Association and to the community. His service to our city and our nation provides an example for others to emulate and demonstrated the difference that one individual can make."

She followed it up with personal reminiscences from a delegation visit and the importance of Sister City relationships. Councilmember Conrad Lee added his own recollections of Hugh.

Hugh's grand-son, Saijo Burleson, accepted the commendation on behalf of his family,

And Gregg Schrader addressed the Council:

"The Bellevue Sister City Association would like to express our deep appreciation for the many years of service that Hugh Burleson provided as a member of our organization for 30 years and as president for 10 years. He worked to broaden understanding and promote peace between people of different nations of the world, and he was what I call a "Citizen of the World". Hugh was a true diplomat and a true gentleman in every sense of both words. And he was a special person and a friend to all of us at the Bellevue Sister City Association. Thank you to his grandson, Saito, who attended the Council meeting Monday evening, and we also thank the Bellevue City Council for the proclamation commending Hugh

"Having been so closely involved with sister cities through the city of Bellevue, Hugh and I had many many chances to work together. He was always there to help out any way he could - and he was such a true gentleman - he will be sorely missed by people all over the world. It was a pleasure to know and work with him. *Judy Louisell*
- past City of Bellevue liaison to BSCA

"Hugh was such a gracious, wonderful person. We knew him as a foreign service retiree, as well as his years with BSCA, so we also enjoyed meeting with him at the Foreign Service luncheons. His work with BSCA was exemplary - continuing as president for years when no one else volunteered for the job. We salute his memory with love. We salute his memory with love. *John and Ruth Bean.*

Hugh L Burleson

1927-2014

Words can hardly express and thank Hugh for all he has done and been, not only for BSCA as an organization, but for the many of us who knew him as a friend.

“Hugh san’s passing was a tremendous loss to us all who interacted with him in different ways. For Katsuko & me he was a true and gentle friend who exhibited extreme patience and unwavering friendship since we moved to the Pacific Northwest in 1997. We knew both him and Kimie-san before Kimie-san’s passing many years ago, and Hugh san had expressed his never ending “longing” for her ever since. The times our conversations wound their way to an instance that involved her were many, and the momentary sadness was apparent. So, as he expressed on numerous occasions, his passing means a reunion with the one he loved most. This thought gives us some small comfort.



On a personal note, I miss the telephone conversations every few days with Hugh san over this past year or so during his battle with illness, and the trips to the barber, grocery, and appointments. During all this period of anguish and difficulty he continued until the last couple of weeks to express optimism and engage in conversation about community events, his life experiences and others. All of us sorely miss his presence, but our fond memories allow him to live on in our minds.” *Tom & Katsuko Brooke, ENMA*

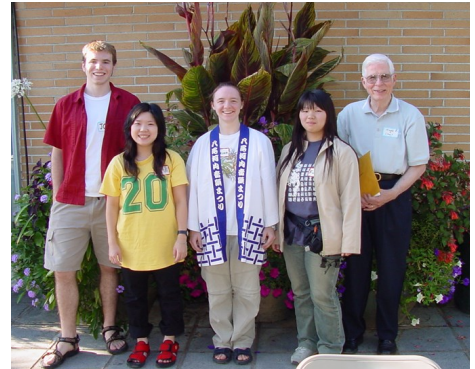
“I met him for the first time when I served as Chair of Japan America Society several years ago. He was truly a gentleman and a kind and gentle soul. He was not the type of person who was in your face but quickly learned how serious he



Dec. 2012—with *Ligita Pudza*

was in doing whatever he could, in his very quiet manner, to help out that cause. He was the first individual members of JAS who without fanfare, who upgraded his JAS membership to a “premier” level individual member, plus he added in some personal donation on top of that. All done without telling anyone about what he was going to do. He was someone whose actions spoke very loudly, and did not require any verbal narrative. He supported JAS by attending our many programs, whenever he could. Despite his advanced age, when the programs ended, he would quietly stay behind and help fold chairs and help staff clean up. I would consider him to be one of the strongest individual members we had at JAS. *Dennis Yamashita, Japan America Society*

“It was an honor to know him. I know he was highly involved with the establishment of the Bellevue-Yao Sister City Association and in relationship to that I know that he knew and worked closely with Virginia and Otis Simon, whom I knew very well. Virginia worked for me years ago at the FIUTS office at the University of Washington. I also visited Yao with Virginia and Otis years ago. I think that Hugh was on that trip as well. I also knew Hugh through his work with the World Affairs Council many years ago. The world is a better place because of Hugh, and he will be sorely missed. My condolences to his family and the Bellevue Sister Cities Association. *Bud Bard—Seattle Sister Cities and past WA state liaison to SCI*



With Yao exchange students 2003



2003 in Yao—with Mr. Fujii



Dec 2013—with SCI liaison Barbara Sanchez



2014 Summer Student Exchange

We look forward to meeting this year's exchange students and hope that this experience will expand their 'international' friendships.

The first to arrive, on June 18th were the two students from Kladno, Veronika Menclova and Matej Fiser. Present to receive them, a Czech flag prominently displayed, were Gregg Schrader and Inta Goteeli as well as their host family mother Pamela Alspaugh and her daughter Juanita.

Juanita will be a senior at Newport HS next year. Besides her mother and two older sisters, they are hosting two foreign students so they are used to many students and many languages spoken at home. Veronika is a dancer and loves music. Music is also a passion for Matej—he plays guitar and has a brother that plays in a band. All of them will be heading to Kladno July 17th and Juanita will return on August 8th.

And on June 26th two of our students started their journey to Yao, Amee Eng and Alissa Rogers were looking forward to meeting their summer 'sisters' Wakama Kuremoto and Mitsuko Manabe. Amee just graduated from Lindbergh HS and was enrolled in the Running Start program at Bellevue College. She has been working as an intern at Microsoft. Alissa is home schooled and attends the homeschool co-op at Westminster Chapel in Bellevue. She loves to sing and is in Northwest Girls Choir. Wakana also likes music and also judo, Mitsuko's favorite subject is Math, she likes reading and dancing. The girls will be back on July 25th, and our Japanese students will be here until August 22nd.



Czech That Film Festival 2014 July 11-13 - A weekend of the newest and greatest films celebrating the variety of Czech cinema, including *Honeymoon*, the latest from director Jan Hřebejk (*Kawaskai's Rose*); historical drama *Collete*, based on the novel by celebrated author Arnošt Lustig; Academy Award Winning Director Jiří Menzel's operatic *Don Juans*; a special sneak preview of Agnieszka Holland's *The Burning Bush*; and more! Opening night pre-screening reception starts at 6:00, with program introduction by Michal Sedlacek, Consul General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles. More at: <http://www.siff.net/cinema/czech-that-2014>.



BSCA at US-Japan Event

Recently the Japan-America Society of WA, as part of their Japan Update Series, held a symposium with focus was on US-Japan relations and its implications for NY Economy and Trade. Brad Miyake, our City Manager, was part of the panel discussion, and Marc Knapper, Director of the Office of Japanese Affairs at the a US Department of State was keynote speaker. (Yes, we told him he was following in Hugh's footsteps...). In his words: *This panel discussion comes at an important time in the U.S.-Japan relations. Japan is a critical partner for the United States as we*

seek to trickle a host of regional and global issues. The U.S.-Japan alliance is the cornerstone of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Since this event took place at Bellevue City Hall, Florence and Inta made sure that BSCA was present.

Delegation visit to our Asian Sister Cities

Even if it is still a whole year away, we have started planning for the visit to Hualien and Yao. We have assurances that this delegation will be led by Bellevue Mayor Claudia Balducci and other Council members have also expressed interest in participating. More information to come!