



Annual Membership Picnic
Thursday, July 12, 2012
4:30—7:30pm
Bellevue Botanical Garden Visitor Center

It is time again to spend an afternoon socializing over an assortment of dishes provided by no other than our membership—you! This year's picnic will be on a weekday evening—the Thursday before our Liepaja and Kladno students head off to Europe. Come and find out what exciting things they have seen and done during their time with their Eastside families and wish them bon voyage.

This is also a time to take a walk along some of the many trails at the Botanical Garden—check out how some of the previous projects are doing—the Perennial Garden is a delight to explore—and find the new projects that have been completed—this year the Ravine Trail.

The new trail 'forms a connection between the bridges and existing trail segments to complete a "Ravine Trail Loop," and features a suspension bridge that allows visitors to take a walk in the wild side—the new bridge spans a ravine giving visitors close proximity and intimate views of the plants, wildlife and forest canopy in and around the ravine'. The project added 600 feet of pedestrian trail to the Botanical Garden's current trail system. Come early and explore the new trails!



Please contact Florence Metcalf at 425-746-2853 or at 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:
Main Dish/casserole A-M Salad-vegetable or fruit 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

From Your President

The Quiet Power of Sister Cities

Amid the tumult and intense emotions of national politics and international crises, the public—people in general—and national governments may easily overlook the impact and importance of year-to-year sister city activities. Like the brick-by-brick building of a house, the cumulative effects of friendly exchanges between cities and towns here and abroad build relationships that tend often not to attract the attention of local and national officials too often distracted by short-term crises and disputes.

This concept has gradually dawned on me—from the early 1960s as I served in Japan, India and Korea in my Foreign Service assignments and after I retired and became active at the “domestic” end of such exchanges as we have seen the number of US/foreign city affiliations mushroom in the last few decades. The volume of such exchanges could now be called a *national movement*, not mere scattered activities or programs.

As such, all of us who are involved and dedicated to the sister-city movement must assure that the individual affiliations we are involved in attain the effectiveness and staying power they need and deserve. I believe they are contributing to world peace at least as much as do international treaties, defense alliances and other forms of nation-to-nation interchange. Yes, it is comparatively low key work and mostly underrated by national leaders and the uninvolved public. But, is it not telling at the grass roots level a way to assure that anything at all worthwhile grows and thrives?

So, once again I urge that each BSCA member become actively involved and contribute whatever skills and service you can. Perhaps starting with your potluck dish at our July 12th picnic.

**Next General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, September 11th**

Our Summer Student Exchange

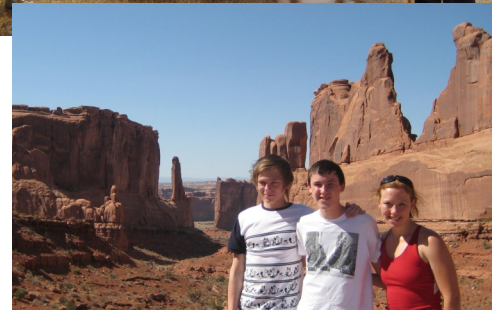
In a recent editorial column in the Seattle Times Bruce Ramsey’s advice to graduates is: *Sometime in your life, live outside the United States.* Not only do we most emphatically agree with this but in our own small way we have been doing something about it since 1977!!

As this year’s students start their adventure, we have to give a huge thank-you to the families involved—the Fry, Kranz and Green families here, as well as the families in our sister cities in Liepaja, Kladno and Yao—without whom the exchange would not happen. It is they who join us to meet the students as they arrive, and it is they who welcome them and include them in their family activities—a road trip to Colorado for Janis with the Fry family to visit with daughter Rosie—a 10 day trip through some of the most awesome scenery in the US.

And as in past years, Tom and Sarma Davidson took the students and family members on a boat ride on Lake Washington.



Much more is ahead for them!



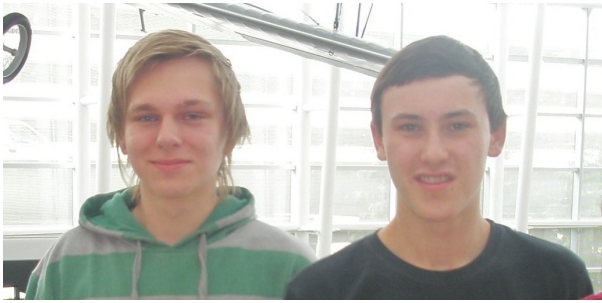
Our Liepaja and Kladno students will have a chance to revisit their US experiences as they look forward to their European visits—they are on the same flight to Amsterdam!

Liepaja: Janis Jostmanis June 13—July 15
Dustin Fry July 15 - Aug. 14

Kladno: Josef Štec June 23 - July 15
Emily Kranz July 15 - Aug. 5

Yao: Rileigh Green June 29 - July 28
Takashi Fujimoto July 28 - Aug 28

BSCA Summer Student Exchange—2012

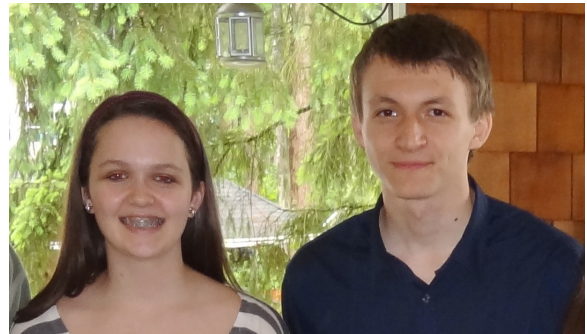


From Liepaja: Janis Jostmanis (on left) son of Gun-tis and Ilze Jostmanis is a student at the Liepaja Secondary School #5. He has an older sister and a younger brother. While he enjoys sports and played tennis for many years, his main love is art and music – he plays piano, drums and guitar and has been playing with a band for the past 3 years. Besides English, he also speaks some Russian, German and French. His future plans are to combine music and business. He is excited about his visit to the US, his

previous trips taking him to Lithuania and Estonia.

To Liepaja: Dustin Fry, son of Larry and Christin Fry of Issaquah. Dusty will be a senior at Issaquah High School next year. Dustin is an honor student, an avid reader, but also participates in the cross-country team, likes skateboarding and snowboarding, and spending time on his computer. He has played saxophone, and some piano and guitar. He has 3 years of Spanish at school, and speaks 'survival' German. He plans to go on to college majoring in a math/science field. During the school year, he tutors neighborhood kids, in the summer he helps out with yard work. He has visited his mother's family in Germany several times, as well as travelled in Mexico and Turkey. He has an older brother and sister, his sister Rosie was our exchange student to Liepaja back in 2003.

From Kladno: Josef Štec, son of Dana Štecová and Roman Štec. This is Joe's 3rd year applying for the Sister City exchange, he was very pleased to be accepted. He currently studies at the technical high school and has one more year before university which he would like to complete in USA. His dream job is to be a game designer or program developer, he intends to study computer programming languages. He practices Chinese martial arts, a Kung-Fu style called Lok Yiu Wing Chun. He also likes to play video games and enjoys reading, his favorite genre is Fantasy. His most favorite is writer Andrzej Sapkowski and his book Witcher. Josef has one younger brother.



To Kladno: Emily Kranz, daughter of Lee and Karen Kranz of Newcastle. She will be a sophomore at Kennedy Catholic High School this fall. Emily is involved in gymnastics, and her favorite subjects are language arts and math. Emily's hobbies include gardening, baking, listening to music, gymnastics, and swimming. Some of her spare time is spent helping her neighbor with yard work, and babysitting her cousins. Emily has older sister, Lindsey, currently attending Gonzaga University, where Emily hopes to go after high school.



To Yao: Rileigh Green daughter of Scott and Karen Green of Kirkland. Her interest in Japanese culture began early—first learning Shotokan Karate, later enjoying the unique art form and stories of Anime. She likes boating, plays basketball, but also is interested in animals and sea life, likes visits to the aquarium, the zoo and the botanical gardens. Currently in her second year of Japanese, she plans to keep it as a minor when she goes on to college, where she plans to major in Marine Sciences.

From Yao: Takashi Fujimoto graduated this spring from high school. In April, he entered Osaka University of Technology. His best high school subjects were math and gymnastics, and he was in the pop music club at school. One of his hobbies is magic tricks. He loves making new friends and is interested in architecture.



May Meeting Thanks



Heidi Ressler listens to Sue Hwang's instructions

We would like to thank everyone who attended the May membership meeting and helped to make it a great success. Our guest speaker, Ms. Sue Hwang and her team provided us with live demonstrations of Chinese calligraphy and the intricacies of the poetry involved in the art of calligraphy. We were able to not only see her work, but try our hand at it as well.

Get Your Newsletter on Line

As with this one, most of you have received the last several newsletters by e-mail – this way, not only do you get it in color, but we are saving on printing and postage.

If you are among those who would like to receive a printed copy, too, please let me know – and if you did not get the e-mailed copy – send me your e-mail – intabg@comcast.net. And remember – you can always access our newsletters on our website!

Sister Cities events around the State

One of the interesting parts of our WA State SC meetings is finding out what other cities have been doing during the year – and recently our new State Rep – Barbara Sanchez— sent an e-mail with Bellingham news... and promptly got back several with news around the state – here's a few:

From **Bellingham** (the other BSCA) again participated in this year's Ski to Sea race with an international team - visitors from several of their sister cities made up the team. They also partner with the Bellingham Yacht Club to sponsor the PacRim yacht races – as does their Australian sister City Port Stephens—where the 2012 races were held with Team Bellingham very much present.

From **Wenatchee** – they hosted sister city delegates from Misawa, Japan during the annual Apple Blossom Festival and are expecting the next delegation from Misawa during the Wings/Wheels festival in October. A delegation from Wenatchee will head to Misawa in August for their Summer Festival.

From **Walla-Walla** – they are pleased that former exchange student to Sasayama has continued to pursue Japanese study and interest – lately by participating in aiding the earthquake and tsunami relief efforts as part of a group of 12 volunteers.

Membership update:

We welcome **Lee and Janice Kranz and family** – their daughter Emily will be heading to Kladno later this year. We appreciate their support of our summer exchange program and the additional support by becoming members.

For years now we have held our membership around 60 – way down from what it was before we lost so many key members to age and changing circumstances. This means fewer of us to cover our operating expenses and less funds to keep our projects current. If you have yet to get that dues check in the mail – please do so soon! Mail to Inta Gotelli, 18911 SE 44th Way, Issaquah, WA 98027

From the Liepaja Special School:

We have received thanks from Kaiva Zimante at the Liepaja Special School for the renewal of their membership in the Council for Exceptional Children. Along with the main publication they also receive a second on learning disabilities and have access to all the information on the CEC website. After the journals have been read by the teachers at the school they are sent on to the library at the Liepaja University where they can be accessed by faculty, students and others. We have been keeping this membership current since the Liepaja Special School project began with Kaiva's visit to Bellevue back in 1998.

We are still waiting for an update to the playground project—the next phase –the rubber surface to cover the sand brought in last year.