

We have two events to bring to your attention for January and beyond—the first is the Lunar New Year celebration at the Westminster Chapel in Bellevue—and this year **BSCA will be participating by having a booth**. We encourage all to come by, visit with those of us at the booth and stay for the evening program—see information below:

Celebrate Lunar New Year at Westminster
2014 YEAR OF THE HORSE
Saturday, January 25, 2014,
3:00-8:30 PM, at Westminster Chapel
13646 NE 24th Street Bellevue, WA 98005 Phone: 425-747-1461

Celebrate Asian culture with us! Join us for live entertainment, crafts & games, art exhibits, ping-pong, food, demonstrations, traditional music and dance. Fun for all ages!

See more at: <http://www.westminster.org/connect/internationals/lny/#sthash.aZZvKmlY.dpuf>
Poster at: <http://www.westminster.org/files/9213/8325/7937/14LNY-8x11-small.pdf>



Our Kladno member, Rosie Bodien, is pleased to inform us that her Czech perfume bottle collection will be featured at a special exhibit at the Tacoma Glass Museum. There will be a special Czech day. We ask that BSCA members who would like to make this a special get together let a board member know—we foresee lunch and the museum visit—date to be determined.

Museum of Glass - Tacoma
1801 Dock Street, Tacoma, WA 98402

Bohemian Boudoir
January 15 - May 1, 2014

Bohemian Boudoir features over 40 glass crystal perfume bottles and bedroom accessories hand-crafted in Czechoslovakia in the 1920's and 1930's. These bottles were particularly popular in the United States during the Great Depression, as affordable symbols of femininity, style and status. These objects, manufactured in prestigious factories such as Hoffman, Vogel, and Zappe, exemplify the creativity and technical prowess of Czech craftsmen.



See more at: <http://museumofglass3.reachlocal.net/exhibitions/upcoming>

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/>

Meet our new BSCA president – Gregg Schrader

Gregg's involvement with BSCA dates back to 1993 with his participation in the Sister City Staff Exchanges. In 1995 he was the first City of Bellevue staff exchange representative to the City of Kladno and has hosted delegates visiting Bellevue. He has served as Kladno committee chair and as BSCA vice-president. We appreciate his stepping up to finish Hugh's term and beyond.

Gregg has been with the City of Bellevue for 25 years, presently the Building Official and Building Division Director. He is a licensed structural engineer and a former director of the Structural Engineers Association of Washington (SEAW). Gregg has participated in writing and grading structural licensing exams for 20 years at the state and national level, worked as a volunteer engineer for the City of Los Angeles following the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, and joined the SEAW/UW post-earthquake reconnaissance teams that went to China in 2008 and Chile in 2010. Gregg was also a member of the King County Emergency Management Advisory Committee for 6 years.

His personal interests are travel, reading, bicycling, tennis, hiking, bridge, and chess. In his travels, Gregg has visited 34 countries on 5 continents – including participating in three BSCA delegation visits.



From your retiring president—Stepping Back, but no Sayonara

BSCA members present at the Holiday party had a chance to greet me back as a sort-of active participant; and perhaps a few may have surmised that I was making a swan-song appearance. That's not my intention. While I was delighted that Gregg Schrader has stepped forward to fill the presidential slot, I expect to step back and serve as an aide to Florence Metcalf, the Yao Committee chairperson. Since that committee is the first and original committee, you may understand why—for now—it will be run by a nonagenarian aided by an octogenarian.

I first became involved with BSCA in 1981-82, the year that I took a kind of sabbatical from the Foreign Service of the U.S. Information Agency to serve as executive director of the Seattle World Affairs Council. With that year over, I went back to Washington, D.C., to work a job in USIA headquarters and then take on my final overseas posting, in Seoul, Korea. Back here after retiring in 1987, Kimie and I again joined BSCA, but then were lured off to Spokane for six years (1989~95). It was family ties and old friends that lured us back in the summer of 1995.

I have been privileged to work with charter BSCA members and others who joined later, learning much from each; and I'm sure that will be true also henceforth. Above all, let's each contribute what we can to BSCA's continued activity and development. Hugh



Remembering Robert Sandbo (1920-2013)

We again fondly remember a long time member—Bob and Pat joined BSCA back in the early years. Up to recently, he and Pat were often seen at BSCA meetings, especially the Yao committee gatherings. They hosted several Japanese exchange students. They liked to travel, a highlight their 100-day trip around the world. Their last foray to our Sister Cities was the Europe delegation in 2005.

Bob grew up in Montana, and after service in the Navy during WWII, returned there to complete his degree in Engineering. Accepting a job with Boeing, where he worked until his retirement in 1985, he moved to Bellevue. Bob married Patricia in 1962—they had recently celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary.

Dorothy Webb recently moved to live with her daughter Mary Weis:

413 S. 289 St.
Federal Way, WA 98003.
Phone: (253) 941-1804.

Elmars Zemgalis, longtime Liepaja committee member, has moved to: Royal Adult Family Home
11122 Oakwood Ave. S,
Seattle, WA 98178.

The home phone is 206-772-6928 or contact via e-mail through his niece Maija Eerkes at meerkes@msn.com

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON 2013

This year's holiday luncheon was held at the Tam o'Shanter Club House and we thank Hugh for making the use of this facility possible through his membership. This luncheon was a special one—after a couple of health setbacks, Hugh is slowly recovering, but since he's stepping down from his long term presidency it was time for some thanks for his dedication to BSCA in the past many years.

BSCA President, Hugh Burluson, receives Commendation from the Bellevue City Council

Bellevue Mayor, Conrad Lee, took this opportunity to present Hugh with a Commendation from the City of Bellevue for his many years of service in behalf of the Bellevue Sister City association mentioning the opportunities that are open to young people from Bellevue through BSCA's summer student exchange.

In addition, present at the luncheon were Barbara and Frank Sanchez from Bellingham, and Barbara, as the liaison for WA state to SCI, added the commendations from Sister Cities International for his many years involvement with Sister Cities beginning while he was in the foreign service and later as a member of BSCA as also of the Spokane Sister City Association in the years he lived there.



Among those at the luncheon, besides Mayor Lee and his wife, Winnie, and the Sanchez, was Councilmember Dr. Don Davidson, and several family members and guests. We enjoyed the friendly holiday atmosphere, the food, and the many varied Holiday cookies—thank you all who contributed!



Our special thanks to Billie Franklin and Florence Metcalf not only for their part in making this event happen but for keeping us all abreast of Hugh's progress.

Welcome new members Charles and Teruko Pace!

Florence Metcalf tells us, *I first saw this most interesting couple about a month ago while shopping at Uwajimaya.....for Japanese traditional foods. Our eyes met and I knew I wanted to meet them, talk to them, and know them better!!! So I said Konnichiwa!!*

Florence promptly told them all about BSCA, invited them to join us at the Christmas luncheon and was pleased to have them accept. They enjoyed the luncheon and the company and asked more about BSCA... becoming our newest members. Welcome!

Washington State Sister Cities Annual Conference October 12, 2013, - Tacoma, WA

These annual conferences give us an opportunity to network with members of other WA sister cities, and often also meet SCI officers. This year the program featured Mary Kane, Executive Director of Sister Cities International, Adam Kaplan and others. Your board members in attendance were secretary Gary Winchester, treasurer (and newsletter editor) Inta Gotelli and Hualien chair Eureka Lim, the latter two accompanied by their husbands.



The morning sessions featured issues of general interest including an overview of the updated SCI website, the afternoon was devoted to WA Sister City projects—and Inta shared the power point of our recent delegation visit to Liepaja and Kladno. Lunch was hosted by the Consul General of Japan.

That evening the annual Tacoma /Cienfuegos, Cuba Sister Cities fundraiser Cuban dinner was very well attended—it has been advertised in the local press. The Cuban band kept the excitement up and the silent auction featured baseball items from Cuba as well as numerous cigar boxes. The proceeds go towards the projects to help the children in Cienfuegos.

BSCA Summer Student Exchange

Please let interested people know—Applications for 2014 Now Available!

This long standing program is our most important contribution to international friendship—the first exchange with Yao dating back to 1977! By now 109 high school students have had the opportunity of spending part of their summer in one of our Sister Cities, and an equal number of students from our Sister Cities have visited here.

Our exchange is a two part program: we match each selected student with a student selected by our Sister City counterparts and the two spend much of the summer together - half here and half in the Sister City. It also has become very much a family centered program - not only is the selected student involved, but so is the whole family.

Applications are available on our website www.bellevuesistercities.org.

Last but not Least - Liepaja Special School Playground *needs your help!*

Between donations through the Project Karma website and those sent directly to BSCA, we are getting close to the \$12,000 goal that would put the main piece of equipment in place. We had hoped to get there by last fall... now we are determined to make it happen this spring. WE NEED YOUR HELP! Even small donations do add up. Check out the site below to watch the video featuring the school—the playground 'in progress' shown at the beginning and end of the video.

Please share the Projekt Karma website and/or the information on the BSCA website with friends.

Donate at <http://www.projektkarma.com/projekts/page/pid/91>.