

Membership Meeting
Tuesday, September 9, 2014
Bellevue City Hall—7:30pm
A Bicycle Trip Through Europe
Behrooz Emam



Behrooz (Ben) Emam will be sharing with us some of his experiences during his 3 month bicycling tour in Europe in 2012. He has been a bicycle tourist for over 30 years, with 5 trips in Europe, including 1984 Greece to Holland, 1987 France (with his two year old daughter in a trailer), 1997 England, Holland & France (on two tandems with his two daughters), 2008 France, and 2011 Western Europe, and Pacific Coast border to border 1990-2002 (BC to Mexican border).

Behrooz is a registered architect, a professional civil engineer, and a certified facility manager, with over thirty years of experience in architectural and structural engineering, emergency preparedness, facilities, construction, and project management. He has Masters degrees in Architecture and Civil Engineering from University of Nebraska. He is currently the Senior Manager - Real Estate - Emerging Regions for Amazon.com and is also an adjunct faculty member at the University of Washington, Department of Construction Management

Welcome back our Students!

Before bicycling off to Europe, we'll hear a bit from this summer's three exchange students.

We again thank the parents involved in each of these exchanges, both here and in our sister cities—without them this exchange could not happen. Please also remember that this program is funded through our 'occasional' fundraisers... and we should be planning our next one in the near future—volunteers needed!



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...

Again, this summer we enjoyed getting together at our Annual picnic—and we were glad to be back at the Bellevue Botanical Garden! We were joined by our Kladno exchange students as well as the parents of one of our Yao students. Later we enjoyed a second get-together—this time on the shores of Lake Washington—to visit with our Yao students and their families.



For most of us, the summer student exchange is the most important part of what we support — and what we like best of all is to hear from some of our past students that the friendships they formed during these exchanges lead to many further visits—and those often also include other family members!

This year's exchange brings the number of students who have enjoyed this experience to 112. Bellevue and Yao became sister cities back in 1969 and not long after the student exchanges began... the first in 1977. Exchanges with Hualien came soon after it became our second sister city in 1984. When Liepaja and Klandno came on board we had several busy years—in 2001 all of 8 students participated!

In recent years, with our funds declining, we've mostly stayed with one student to each city—but even that will soon be in jeopardy if we don't have some fundraisers...

News from Past Summer Student Exchange

Yes—the connections made through the exchange experience live on... Bianca Blanch (Yao '11) spent last year studying in Japan—KGU was not too far from Yao so she was able to see her host family several times. She and Ranna not only keep in touch but could spend time together, too. The Blanches went to visit their daughter last March, and had a chance to also meet Ranna's parents, sister and nephew – dinner out with all of them was a great way to wrap up their visit.

Bianca now is off to UH Manoa on O'ahu, working towards a major in Japanese.

Japan comes to Bellevue College 17th Annual Aki Matsuri September 6-7, 2014

Come join us and enjoy Japanese cultural and educational fun events for all ages! The two-day program includes martial arts demonstrations, on-stage performing arts, 70+ exhibit booths, Yatai (Food Kiosks), Puppet Shows, hands-on workshops (origami, taiko drumming, calligraphy, etc.), and more! Meet with Aki Matsuri Mas-cot. Browse through "Nomi-no-ichi ... a Japanese style flea market" to make a lucky find.

Mikoshi Junkousai: The Mikoshi from Tsubaki Grand Shrine of America will be on display during the two-day event. **From 12 noon on Saturday**, there will be a Shinto ceremony to purify the Omikoshi followed by the Omikoshi Junkou carrying festival in the campus courtyards. Participating matsuri visitors will experience the spirit of *matsuri*.

2014 Special Japan Guest Programs feature: "An Innovative Ceramic Art Exhibits" and "Noh Introduction Lecture/Demonstrations and Noh Workshops".

Where else can you enjoy so many diverse and interesting family activities in one location? Yes, there really is something for everyone!

And as usual, BSCA will have a booth—please come and stop by!

To learn more about Aki Matsuri 2014, visit <http://www.enma.org> or call 425-861-7865.

Bellevue Sister Cities Association *Holiday Lunch*

Sunday, December 14, 2014
Location to be announced
Save the date!



Kladno Mayor visits Bellevue



The City of Bellevue and the Bellevue Sister City Association hosted the Lord Mayor of Kladno, Czech Republic, Dan Jiránek and his wife Ivana Jiránkova, from July 21 through July 28. A reception was held at Bellevue City Hall the afternoon of Tuesday, July 22, at which time the mayor and his wife were welcomed by Bellevue City Councilmembers Jennifer Robertson, Conrad Lee, and Lynne Robinson. Among those present were Wayne Jehlik, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Seattle, Brad Miyake, Bellevue City Manager, several Bellevue staff and BSCA members. Later that evening Bellevue Mayor Claudia Balducci among the guests at a dinner hosted by Susan Harper.

The Mayor's scheduled activities included an urban planning tour of new development and rezoned areas, an overview of the light-rail extension planned through Bellevue, a parks and facilities tour, and discussions with the budget office and the Public Records Manager. On Wednesday, July 23, the Mayor had lunch with the Microsoft Government Affairs Director, Irene Plenefisch, Bellevue Downtown Association Land Use Committee Co-chair, Mark D'Amato of D'Amato Conversano Engineers, and Larry Martin, Partner at the Davis Wright Tremaine law firm.

On Thursday, July 24, Emil King, City of Bellevue Strategic Planning Manager, and Gregg Schrader, Bellevue Sister City Association President, joined Mayor Jiránek and his wife Ivana for a meeting at the Amazon offices in Seattle with the following company officials: John Felton, VP, Worldwide Operations Finance, Akash Chauhan, VP, Worldwide Supply Chain and Process Standardization, Tony Boetto, Program Manager, Economic Development.

There were interesting discussions about the facility currently located in Kladno that serves the German market for processing returned items, the plans to add another facility at the same site that will be approximately five times larger, Amazon's interest in recruiting employees in that area, Czech technical schools that train potential employees, the possibility of launching a Czech language Amazon site, the perception of the company in the Czech Republic, and proactive public relations communication with Czech communities where facilities are located.



On Friday, July 25 through Sunday, July 27, the mayor and his wife toured the Bellevue Arts Fair, downtown Seattle, the Space Needle and the Chihuly Glass Museum at the Seattle Center, and hiked to the High Rock Lookout south of Mount Rainier. A farewell reception was held at the Seastar Restaurant in Bellevue on Friday evening, July 25, which was attended by Wayne Jehlik, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Seattle, and Bellevue Councilmember Jennifer Robertson, with her husband Scott Robertson. *Report by Gregg Schrader*



Delegation visit to our Asian Sister Cities

Yes, we are working on possible schedules for this delegation visit to Hualien and Yao... Spring of 2014 is still the goal—and you will all know when we have dates that work for Hualien, Yao and our City Council. We have assurances that this delegation will be led by Bellevue Mayor Claudia Balducci and other Council members have also expressed interest in participating. Please let your board know if you'd like to join the delegation. More information to come!

2014 Summer Student Exchange



Juanita Alspaugh writes: Our fun began as soon as Verca (Veronika Menclova) and Matej (Fiser) arrived from the Czech Republic. It felt like it only took five minutes until we were the best of friends. It was very fun and exciting showing them around Washington! We went to Canada and across the North Cascades Highway for camping in Eastern Washington. Matej had the best lunch of his life sitting on the road looking at the spectacular mountains. Verca's best lunch was with me in Uwajimaya while we were exploring Seattle.

We went to parades, a concert, on ferry rides, and Jared Schrader took us to a Mariner's Game, the EMP, and to Kurt Cobain's bench. We were busy every second and loved it!

My adventure started the moment I got on the plane. The first thing we did was meet Verca's and Matej's family and friends. The first half of my trip I stayed with Verca. We went swimming, biking, visited castles, and she took me to Prague shopping. I fell instantly in love with Prague. The second half of my trip was spent with Matej and his family. He took me hiking, we went to his grandfather's cottage in the country for a few days, and we walked around Kladno. We stayed in Prague for a day. I met his brothers and they were very friendly. We went to a concert of one of his brothers, who is a great musician. I overall love the Czech Republic and would like to live there someday. I can't wait to go back in the future. Thank you again for this amazing opportunity!



Both **Amee Eng** and **Alissa Rogers** have similar stories to tell from their experiences with Mitsuko Manabe and Wakama Kuremoto—both during their weeks in Japan and again back home. Each had a slightly different experience — school was still in session in Japan so Amee was able to attend school with Mitsuko, Wakama's mother took Alissa sightseeing instead. Past exchange student Takashi Fujimoto showed them around Osaka, took them shopping and out for karaoke and then back to his apartment for takoyaki. They also met with the Yao City Council - followed by a party with them... Amee and Mitsuko sang a song for them, and Wakana and Alissa danced.

Washington State Sister Cities Annual Meeting—2014

Or rather... meetings... since this year there are two meetings scheduled—the first one on **September 27th in Ellensburg**, the second one in **October in Lacy**. Each has its own agenda— the Ellensburg agenda will feature businesses doing trade with Japan as well as a speaker from the Port of Tacoma emphasizing the importance of trade with Japan for our area. The Consul General of Japan might participate in this meeting and Barbara Sanchez hopes that those attending will have news to share about their Japanese Sister Cities.

The Lacy meeting will focus on international trade and investments and how the relationships built through sister city establish trust and friendship that can help in negotiations with businesses—how we can work constructively with trade organizations, Chamber of Commerce, and the business community.

The afternoon sessions, as usual will deal with subjects of interest to the attendees, a time for sharing and networking with other sister city organizations. Agendas for both will be forthcoming.

While usually it is board members who attend these meetings, they are open to all members—so please let your board know if you might be interested in attending either or both.