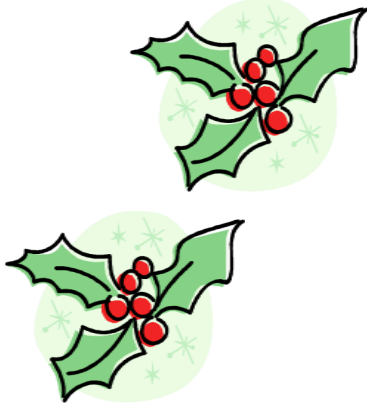


November-December 2014
Volume 132



Holiday Luncheon

Sunday, December 14, 2014
1:00 - 3:00pm

Tam o'Shanter Golf and Country Club
1313 - 183rd Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98008

1:00pm Socializing and Appetizers
Luncheon at 1:30

We continue with a Sunday luncheon—preferred over a dinnertime event by many—and thanks to someone's membership we have again reserved our space at the Tam o'Shanter Golf and Country Club. We enjoyed the venue and the menu last year—and will take a moment to remember last year's event and all that Hugh did to keep BSCA on track.

This year we will bring back our well received Holiday Gift Basket Raffle so get your raffle tickets along with signing up for the luncheon. And even if your busy holiday schedule makes attending the luncheon a problem... get your raffle tickets anyway... you don't need to be present—we'll deliver! Use the flyer attached to send in your reservation—and/or get your raffle tickets.

Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Baltic Way - Saturday, October 25th

The Annual St. Martin's Eve has for many years been a fun fundraiser sponsored by the Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian communities to support the Baltic Studies Program at the University of Washington. This year instead of the usual auction, the evening will be dedicated to celebrating the 600km long human chain that stretched from Tallinn to Riga to Vilnius on August 23, 1989—a peaceful demonstration protesting once again the secret Molotov-Ribbentrop pact between Stalin and Hitler that was signed 50 years earlier at the beginning of World War II. The end of the 1980's was a time of many demonstrations by the Baltic peoples against Soviet occupation—but this was one event that stood out in history and included all three Baltic states. More on back page. Flyer attached.

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

You might notice (maybe??) that we are skipping a general meeting in November... For many years now your board has planned the bi-monthly meetings—trying our best to come up with topics that might tempt at least some of you to come, listen, visit with other members and enjoy a bit of refreshments—faithfully provided each time by Florence Metcalf and other board members—only to be repeatedly disappointed by the meager turnout... what can we do differently? To keep planning meetings we do need input from you.

In the meantime—next up is an event that brings out many—our Holiday Luncheon—and yes, a Sunday luncheon it has been now for several years—preferred over a dinnertime event by many. We are again taking advantage of someone's membership to reserve our space at the Tam o'Shanter Golf and Country Club—a venue and menu that we all enjoyed last year.

We always have some activity for you at this event—door prizes, a mini auction, a raffle... and one of the most popular—and a bit of a fundraiser, too, has been the Gift Basket raffle we have had in the past—so get your raffle tickets as you sign up for the luncheon!



Summer Student Exchange 2015

It is again time to look ahead to our next summer's student exchange—and we hope to again have students participating in all four of our Sister Cities. We have already received a couple of applications, and hope that you will share the attached flyer with friends, acquaintances and neighbors with high school students.

Last summer we had one student going to Kladno and hosting two, and two students went to Yao and each hosted one—they shared some of their experiences at our September meeting as well as in our last newsletter. More about this program in previous years newsletters—available for your perusal on our website.

Our summer student exchange has always been a highlight of our activities—let's make sure we can continue providing the funding for this program.

From Bellevue City Manager's office

City Manager Brad Miyake officially appointed **Kate Berens** to serve as deputy city manager. She had served in an interim capacity since May 2013. Previously, she was Bellevue's deputy city attorney, as well as a legal planner in the Planning and Community Development Department.

Additionally, **Pam Bissonnette** was hired to serve as an interim deputy city manager. We will be adding both to our mailing list and hope they will take interest in the Sister City Program.

2015 Young Artists and Authors Showcase

Each year, the Young Artists and Authors Showcase encourages youth from around the globe to express the mission of Sister Cities International through original artwork and literature. All students must submit their work based on a designated theme that is announced each year. Artwork is sent from member cities to Washington, D.C. where a panel of judges selects the winners based on originality, composition, and theme interpretation.

2015 Theme: Connecting Communities for Peace and Prosperity

Sister Cities International aims to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation – one individual, one community at a time. This year's theme, *Connecting Communities for Peace and Prosperity*, celebrates Sister Cities International's mission.

Sister Cities International founder President Dwight D. Eisenhower reasoned that, by becoming friends, people of different cultures could celebrate and appreciate differences. If people connect across national boundaries and get to know each other, their mutual respect and understanding can transform diplomatic relations and foster peace and prosperity. Artists and authors from around the world are encouraged to use their imagination. What is your vision of peace? How does connecting globally allow you and your community to prosper?

Participants must be between 13 and 18 years of age at the time of the 2015 deadline and from a dues-paying member of Sister Cities International. **Deadline to submit entries is May 1, 2015.**

We are assured that Yao will be forwarding to us an artists entry as they have done for many years now. We always hope that there will be local interest in holding a competition... as well as receiving entries from our other Sister Cities. See more at: <http://www.sister-cities.org/YAAS>

BSCA again is present at the annual Japanese Fall Festival at BC

Although Hugh's presence was sorely missed, Florence Metcalf and members of the Yao committee were again 'manning' a table at the annual Aki Matsuri at Bellevue College. Our thanks to Bill Bockman and Fusako and Shogo Kusumi as well as Alissa Rogers, our last summer's exchange student to Yao.



As in the past, the display featured several Japanese items, among them of some of Florence's extensive collection of hashioki—and—as before—these attracted much attention.

BSCA has participated with a booth at this event for more years than we remember—making our presence in Bellevue known to those attending—among them some prospective students for next summer's exchange.



Delegation Visit to our Asian Sister Cities—Hualien, Taiwan and Yao, Japan

We are still waiting for confirmation of the dates for our upcoming delegation visit to Hualien, Taiwan and Yao, Japan, but in the meantime - a quick look at some of the high lights in past delegations.

But first, in this age, when so many various tours are available to ever more exotic places - in what way does a delegation visit differ - other than the destination is our sister cities? There is the 'red carpet' treatment... how often are we received by the city Mayor? Welcomed by aborigine drummers (Hualien 2003- below)? How often does a tour lead to friendships - and an opportunity to repay the hospitality of our guests with special events here on their delegation visits to Bellevue?



While each delegation visit will have its own itinerary, some things will always be there—the reception at arrival—the dinners and lunches, the visits with members of the sister city organizations and friends from previous visits.

There will be sightseeing but also visits to city hall, local parks, and schools where not seldom we would be treated to a special performance. There might be visits to families—especially those of our past exchange students, many meals shared and issues dis-



cussed.

And not the least, the camaraderie of other members of the delegation.

And most of all, a delegation visit is not about the places we see - but about the people we meet.



The Baltic Way—25th Anniversary



Back in 1939, on the eve of WWII, Stalin and Hitler sent their foreign ministers to negotiate a treaty which affected the fate of Europe and the entire world. This secret pact, its existence denied for decades, signed by Molotov and Ribbentrop, divided the spheres of influence of the USSR and Germany in Europe and eventually led to the Soviet occupation of the three Baltic States - Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Fifty years later, growing dissatisfaction in many of the countries occupied by the Soviet Union, led to demonstrations and demand for freedom, among these a demand that the secret clauses of the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact be recognized. In the Baltics, this culminated on August 23, 1989, the 50th anniversary of the signing of this pact—in the Baltic Way— when more than a million people joined hands to create a 600 km long human chain from the foot of Toompea in Tallinn to the foot of the Gediminas Tower in Vilnius, crossing Riga and the River Daugava on its way— and impressive act of non-violent protest and solidarity.



Since then, this event has been celebrated each anniversary - this year marking 25 years. Events not only in the Baltic republics, but in communities all over the world marked this date with various events - from commemorative coins, photo exhibits, even a bicycle tour over the original course. In Chicago, sister city to Vilnius in Lithuania, one of the larger events in the US brought together people from all three countries for festivities and speeches - including the Chicago mayor and congressmen.

Liepaja Special School Update



Slower than we had anticipated and hoped, the Ann Knofel playground is slowly taking shape. Although we had informed them that the funds for the large play structure were ready for them, they had budgeted for the rubber surface and wanted to see that done first. It was not as straight forward as they originally thought—they needed to have provisions made for rainwater runoff... but finally all is done and accepted by the city's building department.



We expect that, once the strt of school busy events are over, their attention will again be on the next item for the playground—and we're waiting to get those news. Kaiva keeps us informed on news at the school and sends their greetings to us all.



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