



***Please note the Change of Date!!!!***

Due to several large events at City Hall we postponed our general meeting to coincide with our March board meeting

**Annual Membership Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 24, 2015**

Bellevue City Hall 7:30 p.m.

Our March Annual Membership meeting is our only business meeting each year - we will share with our membership a report on the activities of the past year and the financial statements that go with them. It is also the time we approve the budget for the coming fiscal year—which for BSCA is March 1 to February 28 (or 29) of the next year.

It is also time for elections—assuming we have some candidates nominated for the open positions. For too many years now only a handful of members have continued to serve on the board—most way beyond the terms foreseen in our bylaws. (see next page) We need volunteers!

In addition to these Abigail Westbrook will be sharing with us the slide show she prepared to display at the BSCA booth at the Lunar New Year Celebration at Westminster Chapel in Bellevue. We appreciate all Abigail is doing to support Gregg in his role as our president.

As usual there will be time to visit and snacks and beverages will be available after the meeting—this as always thanks to the efforts of Florence Metcalf.

As we start a new fiscal year, we remind you that **dues for March 1, 2015- Feb. 29, 2016** are now due. Dues continue to be **\$30 individual or \$50 family** and, as last year will be credited to the Association funds in order to cover operating expenses. Please see the attached dues reminder and consider adding a donation to support student exchange or your committee of choice.

Your check made out to BSCA should be mailed to our treasurer:  
Inta Gotelli, 18911 SE 44th Way, Issaquah, WA 98027

**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

Recently I came across some original documents - among them the Articles of Incorporation dated March 16, 1970 - 45 years ago. Not surprising then, that hardly any of the present membership remember the original signers of this document. Membership in BSCA, as in many other organizations, is fluid - many join for a few years and move on. But there are there are those whose dedication to the mission of the sister city program and BSCA has been an inspiration to all - among those our long term past president Hugh Burlison. We lost him this year - a loss that has left a void hard to fill.

As we begin this new fiscal year, we can look back at the year that was - we continued with our bimonthly general meetings - July picnic and Holiday dinner - the latter as always the best attended of all our events.

We did have some sister city visitors from Kladno and we're still working on getting the next delegation visit to Asia scheduled.

As part of summer student exchange program three students participated in exchanges with Yao and Kladno - bringing the total participants since the inception of this program to 112.

Attached is a more complete summary of our last year's activities. And we look forward to a busy year coming up.

### BSCA Current Board and open positions:

**President** - *Gregg Schrader* is continuing in this position

**Vice-President** - this position had been unfilled for several years

**Secretary** - We appreciate Gary Winchester's dedication to this job for the past 4 years, but he feels it is time for him to move on. Please volunteer - or share your suggestions for someone with the board

**Treasurer** - *Inta Gotelli* - no longer is keeping track of how long she'd done this job

**Director** - *Hualien* - *Eureka Lim* - and *Vern* has been her right hand man

**Director** - *Kladno* - we would like someone to help Gregg Schrader—volunteer to help?

**Director** - *Liepaja* - *Inta* has been doing most of the communication—volunteer to help?

**Director** - *Yao* - *Bill Bockman* has been in contact with Yao, with help from *Fusako Kusumi* and *Florence Metcalf* who is hoping to ease out of this position

**Director at large** - our bylaws have two posi-

## Mark Your Calendar!

**General Meetings** have traditionally been bi-monthly on the second Tuesday - *but* - this year there seem to be several conflicts with events at City Hall that either take precedence or make parking a huge problem - please note changes

**May 7th** - *Thursday previous week*

**September 9th** - *Wednesday*

**November 10th** - *Tuesday*

**Board meetings** - open to all are generally on the **4th Tuesday** except none in July and December. May meeting will be on Wed. May 28th

Dates for the **July picnic** and the **December luncheon** have yet to be decided on but probably the second Saturday in July and the second Sunday in December.

### Liepaja Celebrates 390 years

March is always a busy month in Liepaja as the city prepares for a weeklong celebration - there are photo and art exhibits, concerts, tours and sport activities including a gala on the evening of March 18<sup>th</sup> with commendations to the 'Liepajieki' of the year.



This year, among the activities planned for the younger set is "A home for every bird" - children could draw homes for the birds as well as provided with materials to build birdhouses.

In the past delegations from Bellevue have participated in the celebration - including Liepaja's 375<sup>th</sup> when the sister city plaques were installed.

### International Children's Friendship Festival

Seattle Center, Fisher Pavilion  
305 Harrison St., Seattle  
April 11 & 12, 2015



CCEC will host the first-ever Czech Republic table at this year's International Children's Friendship Festival - and also a Slovakia table if we can get enough volunteers! We need your kids! We've created short 1-hour volunteer time slots, so you can volunteer for a bit, and then still have time to enjoy the rest of the festival. Hoping for 1 or 2 adults per time slot for Apr. 11 and 12.

More at: <http://childrensfest.tacawa.org/>

## Thank You, Mitzi, for the Many Years

Up until just a few years ago, no BSCA function was complete without Mitzie Hashiguchi busy doing whatever was needed. Over the years she held several offices—back when she was often seen in charge of a box of name tags, keeping track of the membership among several other jobs. She was our historian, documenting BSCA activities in the numerous photo albums.

By the time Mitzie and her siblings were born, her immigrant Japanese parents were growing the strawberries the Bellevue area was famous for – to this day there is an annual Strawberry festival here. Then came WWII and the

Hashiguchis, along with their Japanese neighbors, were forced to leave on short notice for internment camps. They eventually returned to the Bellevue area and started life anew. Until she retired in 1982 Mitzi worked as Assistant Supervisor of Elementary School Lunches.

When in 1969 Yao became Bellevue's first sister city many locals joined this newly formed group, what eventually became the Bellevue Sister Cities Association, anticipating enriching experiences and travel opportunities between US and Japan—among them, Mitzie, as well as many other local Japanese. And what a find she was! She was always so willing to help – and she tried to

make sure there were always strawberries and blueberries available on arrival for our Yao guests. Over the years Mitzie traveled on many delegation visits to Yao as a representative and "dignitary" from BSCA often acting as the interpreter since very few Americans spoke fluent Japanese. *Above with Mr. Ishii Fujii from Yao, to the right with baskets prepared for Yao visitors.*



Along with other Yao members she could always be found at the BSCA booth at the Aki Matsuri —with Florence and Alice Rasmussen at left.

She is presently living in Seattle with other retirees from Japan and daily enjoying rice and miso soup! Florence Metcalf has been a frequent visitor and found her cheerful and happy when she last saw her, on her 94th birthday.- a belated Happy Birthday, Mitzie.

*OMEDETO, Mitzi!! and GAMBATTE!!!  
Congratulations and here's to you!  
100 is only a few years away!*



## BSCA helps celebrate the Lunar New Year

Again this year BSCA joined other local groups at the Lunar New Year Celebration at Westminster Chapel. We thank Eureka and Vern Lim for making available articles to display from their own collections along with BSCA information and information on our summer student exchange program.

And a huge thank you to Gregg Schrader and Abigail Westbrook for 'holding down the fort' and chatting with the visitors stopping by.



## Celebrating Lunar New Year in Hualien

Again this year Eureka and Vern Lim, along with Eureka's sister June, headed Hualien to greet the Chinese New Year with family. But before the celebration can begin, spring cleaning is a must - no sweeping is allowed on the first day of Chinese New Year as it is believed that you will be sweeping out all your good luck or family fortune.



The eve of the New Year is a time for family gatherings - the most important day and often the time for elaborate dinners or maybe a steamboat dinner - a big pot of soup placed in the middle of the dinner table with lots of different kinds of food—shrimp, fish, crabs, meatballs, fishballs, chicken meat, pork and vegetables are put into the pot of soup to cook.



The first day of the New Year should be started by consuming a bowl of sweet dessert called "tong sui" (syrupy sweet drink) in Cantonese. It symbolizes starting the year off sweet and

pleasant. To assure good luck everyone is encouraged to speak only good and nice things - using inappropriate language is considered bad luck. The lucky children can get away with their misbehavior - crying on New Year's day is considered unlucky so parents avoid upsetting their children. And all debts should have been repaid nor should there be any lending on this day as it is believed that it will put you in debt for the whole year.

On the second day, the elder generation who stayed at home to welcome visiting relatives on the first day, will now visit their friends and relatives. A favorite pastime during this festive season of 15 days are card games. The Chinese also like to set off lots of fireworks and firecrackers during this time.



The last day of celebration of Chinese New Year is Lantern Festival with lanterns soaring in the sky for peace and joy - and a time to enjoy sesame sweet rice balls.

## BELLEVUE ARTS MUSEUM

### Read My Pins: The Madeleine Albright Collection

March 13 - June 7, 2015

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright famously used to make poignant diplomatic statements through her selection of the jewelry she wore. Her use of jewelry as a form of nonverbal communication began after Saddam Hussein's press referred to her as an

"unparalleled serpent." The then U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations responded by wearing a golden snake brooch to her next meeting with Iraqi officials. This provocative act of adornment led to a career-long relationship between Albright's diplomatic point of view and her jewelry. "I found that jewelry had become part of my personal diplomatic arsenal," Secretary Albright said. "While President George H.W. Bush had been known for saying 'Read my lips,' I began urging colleagues and reporters to 'Read my pins.'"



The collection of over 200 works on view span more than a century of jewelry design and include fascinating pieces from across the globe selected by Albright for their symbolic, rather than material, value. The exhibition explores the stories behind these brooches as well as their historical and artistic significance highlighting jewelry's ability to communicate in a nonverbal yet powerfully articulate way. More at: [http://www.bellevuearts.org/exhibitions/read\\_my\\_pins.html#sthash.ciXATwUL.dpufFormer](http://www.bellevuearts.org/exhibitions/read_my_pins.html#sthash.ciXATwUL.dpufFormer)