



**Annual Membership Picnic**  
Saturday, July 11, 2015 - 5:00pm to 8:00pm  
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center  
5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE., Bellevue

*Come and enjoy some fun company and good food!*

This year we are returning to a smaller and friendlier venue and will again meet at the Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center for our summer picnic. As usual this event is a pot-luck and we ask you to bring either appetizers, a salad or your favorite dish to share.

Your board will provide refreshments and a dessert. Please contact Florence Metcalf to volunteer to help (425-746-2853 or [flometcalf@comcast.net](mailto:flometcalf@comcast.net)) Come a bit earlier to help set up or stay later and help clean up!



**Directions:** From I-90 East take the Lakemont Boulevard SE exit (Exit 13), toward SE Newport Way – stay on your right as you exit. Turn right and go straight up the hill on Lakemont Boulevard SE. Continue through two stop lights - the first at the Matthews Thriftway shopping center, the next an all way stop sign. Look for Fire Station #8 on your right and shortly after a left turn lane into the Park – about 2 miles from the freeway exit.

**The Yao committee will be hosting a welcome open house On Sunday, July 26th** from 4:30-7:30pm for our Yao exchange students - Matthew Patrick back from Yao along with Yoomi Bae from Yao. The Kusumi's will be hosting this event.

**Coming in September...** *Membership Meeting on Thursday, September 10th due to scheduling conflicts (City Council meets on Tuesday due to Labor Day on Monday).*

*As is our tradition, we will meet our summer exchange students, hear about their adventures and in addition we will have a special program - Jared Schrader (Kladno 2004) will be telling us about his experiences on a semester at sea.*

### **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

With the summer come two special events for BSCA - the summer student exchange and our annual summer picnic, the first one of the ways we further our mission - how best to encourage the people-to-people relationships than to immerse young people in each other's cultures by participating as family members in each other's city. We are off this summer with students to Kladno and Yao.

And our summer picnic gives us the opportunity to visit with other members and friends, meet our exchange students and their families and enjoy our Northwest summer weather. We hope to see many of you there!

For those of you who have been planning on joining the **next delegation visit to Yao and Hulien** - do not give up! Yes, we had scheduling problems as we started planning this visit... and it got postponed again... but we hope now that we will be able to set a firm date for next spring - probably late May early June. Keep your fingers crossed!

And last , but not least - thank you to those of you who responded to my snail mail dues reminder!

## Aki Matsuri 2015

Every Fall, ENMA (Eastside Nihon Matsuri Association) presents "Aki Matsuri (Fall Festival)", a 2-day program of Japanese cultural, educational, and fun events for all age groups, to celebrate Japan's rich cultural heritage. A large number of local artists and craftpersons practicing Japanese-style arts and crafts (including the performing arts and martial arts), and Japan related businesses & organizations will be participating during the entire two day event activities- *and BSCA will be there again.*

2015 will be the 18th year to present the Aki Matsuri. "[2015 Aki Matsuri](#)" will be held on September 12 (Saturday) and 13 (Sunday), 2015 at the Bellevue College's main campus located in Bellevue, Washington. Everyone is invited to join in the many activities of the matsuri. There really is something for everyone! The matsuri is an excellent opportunity to experience the rich culture of Japan as we bring "Japan to the Bellevue College for a weekend!"

Check-out Aki Matsuri [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

### 2015 Young Artists Showcase YAO Entry Wins International Grand Prize!!!

Congratulations to our young Yao artist! Kanako Onishi's entry *The Peaceful Connection* was selected as the Grand Prize winner among the international entries. This year's theme was *Connecting Communities for Peace and Prosperity!* Kanako explained: *There are a lot of people in the world and a lot of differences. For example the born location, the location where we grew up. The gender, the color of skin, etc. But we can understand each other and respect mutual.*

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, and each year for longer than we can remember, Yao has submitted an entry to the Young Artists Showcase for us to forward to Sister Cities International. As usual, 10 finalists were selected—five US and 5 international, one in each category selected as Grand Prize winners.

All entries will be displayed at the *Sister Cities International 2015 Annual Conference* in Minneapolis, MN, and go on tour to selected US cities. See more at: <http://sistercities.org/YAAS>



**The Washington State Sister Cities meeting will be September 19** at the Nordic Heritage Center in Seattle. As yet the program has not been finalized, but the meeting date is set. Registration will be 8 a.m. and we will close the meeting around 4:30. Afterward the Consul General of Japan will invite the cities with Japanese sister cities to his home for a reception, probably around 5 - 5:30.

Representatives from BSCA have usually attended these meetings - and we have hosted them in the past. Anyone interested is welcome to attend and learn more about what other Sister city groups are doing and share our own news. Please let someone on the board know if you'd like to attend.

## Summer Student Exchange 2015

**KLADNO:** Karlie Chilcott, along with parents Katie and Skip Chilcott of Redmond on June 20th welcomed Eva Petrželková. Katie (on the left) will be a senior at Redmond High School next year. She loves photography, playing the piano and soccer, and reading books. *I like to volunteer and be involved with my community through RYPAC, the Redmond Youth Partnership Advisory Council, where we put on benefit concerts at the local teen center and volunteer at school events.* She recently led a young girls support group called GoGirlGo, and hosted the



Girl's Unlimited conference also through the City of Redmond. She is looking forward to showing Eva all around Seattle and the great Pacific Northwest.



Eva is the only child of Radek and Marta Petrželka of Kladno. Her passion is traveling, meeting new people and discovering their habits and their culture. Her hobbies also include reading, writing, and karate. She is eager to show Karlie her country, because even though the Czech Republic is very small and often forgotten, she thinks it is a country with a very colorful history and folklore. On arrival she has been amazed at the diversity of our population. *There are so many people of different cultures, ethnicities, languages...we do not have as much multiculturalism back home, and it is very fascinating to observe how these different people get along.* Another thing that she finds different from her country, and even from the rest of Europe, is the amount of new buildings and the absence of the historical ones. In the Czech Republic you can find

plenty of medieval castles, baroque halls, renaissance palaces etc. In the US, everything is new, which is what gives it an entirely different atmosphere. *All these differences but also the surprising similarities make me stand in awe sometimes and I am very excited about a month full of discovering Seattle, Bellevue, and Redmond.*

Both girls will head to Kladno on July 20th on Delta flight 32 departing at 1:09pm and Karlie will return on August 18th.

**YAO:** Matthew Patrick departed for Yao on June 22nd, with a bit of a surprise - his original flight via San Francisco was cancelled and he was rerouted via Honolulu adding several hours to the flight. Matt is the son of Kursten and Stephen Patrick. He just graduated from Eastlake HS and participated in the Running Start program at Bellevue College. He plans on studying art. He's also interested in film and literature. Matt heard about our program from Alisa Rogers, our exchange student to Yao last year and was enthusiastic about experiencing another culture through this family oriented exchange. *Florence Metcalf and Ina Gotelli stopped by the day*



*prior to wish Matt a Bon Voyage (Matt in center).*



On arrival he was met with a delegation from Yao including Yoomi Bae and her family. Yoomi's favorite things to do are listening to American pop music, dancing and watching movies. Her favorite subjects at school are English, PE and Social Studies. Once here, she hopes to go to the art museum and the library as well as to go to the seashore.

Matt and Yoomi will be back on July 22nd arriving from Tokyo on flight NH 2178 at 10:50am and Yoomi returns to Yao on August 21st.

## Grand Opening for Liepaja's New Concert Hall

On our walk through Liepaja during our 2013 delegation visit our hosts pointed out the site where construction was just beginning of their major project - the "Lielais Dzintars" or the Giant Amber as the new multi-purpose cultural center is to be called.

The project was first proposed in 2002 and approved by the Liepaja City Council to solicit project ideas. The winner - an Austrian architectural firm - was announced in 2004 - but it took until 2011 to complete the planning and assure the financing for the project - half co-financed with European Union funding.



Construction finally began in 2013 - and this fall Liepaja is gearing for major opening programs. For an idea of what the final project will look like, with its amber window shading watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwgJDFCR0as>

## A brief look backwards... The year was 2003 - BSCA Delegation in Hualien...



### Attention Basketball fans!!

Much of the hype at the 2015 NBA draft had been about a 7'1" 19 year old Latvian who has been playing in Spain for Sevilla - Kristaps Porzingis. He was seen as one of the best prospects in the entire draft - considered to have the most potential... not surprising as he comes from a family of basketball players - the youngest of three brothers - and... .... *You guessed it... he was born in Liepaja!*

Chosen 4th in the recent draft by New York Knicks he now has to prove to the fans that he is up to the expectations. It is not the first time that a Latvian player has been in the NBA draft - there have been three in previous years and basketball players from the Baltic States in the NBA are not unheard of.

#### ***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.

Katsumi Mamiya at **K-Mans Travel Expert** for travel to Asia 425-373-5686

Elise Lalor at **Rainier World Travel** for travel to Europe 425-392-9970

### Czech That Film!

#### **In Seattle July 10-12, 2015, Preview Event July 7**

The CCEC, in partnership with SIFF and the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles, is bringing Czech That Film back to off its fourth year. In Seattle an added bonus - a Festival Preview Event on Tuesday, July 7.

Tues July 7

7:00 | **To See the Sea** with director Jiří Mádľ (120 min with Q&A)

Fri July 10

7:00 | **Fair Play** (100 min)

9:00 | **Václav Havel – A Life in Freedom** (special Seattle screening) (71 min)

Sat July 11

7:00 | **Krasno** (119 min)

9:30 | **The Icing** (77 min)

Sun July 12

2:00 | **Klauni** (120 min)

4:30 | **To See the Sea** (encore)

More at <http://www.czechthatfilm.com/>