



## Annual Membership Meeting

Tuesday, March 8, 2016  
Bellevue City Hall 7:30 pm

### Dragon Boat Racing - Past And Present Fong Ng - Seattle Flying Dargon Boat Club



If you stroll along Lake Union early some morning don't be surprised to see teams of rowers paddling colorful boats, getting ready for the several boat races coming this spring and summer.

While dragon boat racing has fast become an international sport, it has its roots in ancient China and celebrates the many unique aspects of Chinese culture. It has a rich history of ceremonial tradition, with dragons traditionally believed to be the rulers of rivers, lakes and seas, dominating the clouds, mists and rains from heaven.

Dragon boats have 20 paddlers, a drummer and a steersperson all gearing up to cross the next finish line faster than the competition. There is a number of races in the Northwest – in Seattle as well as in Tacoma, Olympia, Portland and other cities. The Flying Dragons have also competed in international races – some of them in Taiwan.

We will hear more about Dragon Boat racing from Fong Ng. More information about the club at: [www.flyingdragons.org](http://www.flyingdragons.org)

Please remember that this is first meeting of our new fiscal year and we'll spend a few minutes reviewing last year's financials and approving the new budget.

### **SAVE THE DATE**

**Next General Membership Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 10, 2016 - Bellevue City Hall 7:30 p.m.**

#### **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—Pamela Alspaugh Newsletter Editor—Inta Gotelli  
Check Facebook or our website for updates! <http://www.bellevuesistercities.org/>

## From your Editor...

This year will again begin with selecting students for our summer exchange - and we have some great candidates. Home visits and information exchange with our sister cities will follow to make the final decisions.

We only have four general membership meetings - the March one coming up, then May, September and November. Years ago each committee was responsible for the program at one of these... lately it has been your board trying to find programs of interest to you...but we obviously need more input from you... at least judging from the declining attendance. HELP

And you might ask what is happening to the planning for the Asian delegation visit - in the planning stages for too long already... it seems that we have been running into conflicts in one place or another... local elections here or in our sister cities, etc... but we do have a committee that is close to final decisions - and we hope to have those to you sometime soon.

## Czech Musicians in Concert Miroslav Ambroš with Zuzana Ambrošová

Wednesday, March 2, 8pm  
PONCHO Concert Hall  
at Cornish College of the Arts  
710 E Roy St, Seattle, Washington 98102

The Center for Czech Education and Culture, together with Cornish College of the Arts, is proud to bring **Miroslav Ambroš** to Seattle for a very special performance. Miroslav Ambroš (born May 9, 1987) began his professional violin career at the age of 11. During his young career, he has already won numerous prizes in national and international competitions, and frequently plays in the main concert halls in the Czech Republic and all across Europe, Asia and in Canada.

Seattle is fortunate to be a stop on Mr. Ambroš' debut US tour. Accompanied by **Zuzana Ambrošová**, Miroslav will deliver a program that you won't want to miss!

[http://www.ccec-seattle.org/event/miroslav-ambros/?event\\_date=2016-03-02](http://www.ccec-seattle.org/event/miroslav-ambros/?event_date=2016-03-02)



## Remembering Dr. Gunars Jaunzems (1942-2016)

In the past few years Bellevue Sister City Association has lost several of our initiators and supporters, not only here but also in our sister Cities. We are saddened by the recent passing of one of the original Liepaja supporters and friends - pediatrician Gunars Jaunzems.

Zaiga Phillips as a fellow pediatrician, worked closely with Dr. Jaunzems. She shares with us: I first met with Gunars in 1990 on my first trip to Liepaja. With Gunars devotion for the health of children we began exploring and identifying the pediatric medical needs and the needs of the Liepaja Children's hospital that he was in charge of. This was the beginning of the exchange of medical information and the shipments of medical supplies and equipment. We had medical packing parties in my garage. Shortly before the BSCA first trip to Liepaja, then Bellevue City councilwoman Margot Blacker organized a toy drive for the hospitalized Liepaja children and resulted in a roomful of toys in City hall and brought many smiles in Liepaja.

Dr. Gunars Jaunzems was not only a world class pediatrician, he was very highly respected and much loved humanitarian. He was one of the driving forces for Liepaja to establish a sister city relationship with Bellevue in 1992. Further more, once Dr. Gunars identified the patients for whom care was not available in Liepaja, The Healing The Children Organization was contacted. It selected Dr. Gunars Jaunzems as the contact person for Latvia. With his devotion, help and caring 20 children received medical/surgical care on the West coast and on three occasions Healing the Children surgical teams attended to approximately 300 children in Liepaja. In 1996 when Gunars wife, Aina, was in need of surgical care they stayed with me for three months and many of you visited with them and helped with transportation. He was devastated by her death and eventually moved from Liepaja to Riga.

They often welcomed Bellevue visitors in their home. Dr. Gunars Jaunzems remained grateful for all the help that his family has received. In all my visits he never failed to inquire about BSCA members he knew. Gunars was an incredible pediatrician, smart, confident and wise with wonderful sense of humor. He cared so much for others and asked little for self. We will miss him much.

## BSCA – Summary 2015-16 Activities

As we look back at the year just past, we also look back at the past 46 years since people dedicated to international understanding first approached the City of Bellevue with the idea of joining the growing numbers of sister city partnerships. The first decades saw the beginning of many delegation visits, student exchange programs, and various other activities. Sadly, over the years age and health issues limited the participation of the original members. This year we lost two more of these core members – Dorothy Webb, who served in every position on the board, and was instrumental in bringing Kladno as a sister city, and Billie Franklin, who was also the travel agent for BSCA, organizing delegation visits and student exchange travel until her retirement in 2000.

**Summer Student Exchange program** – a very much ‘people to people’ program - this year sponsored two students – one to Kladno and one to Yao bringing the number of students who have participated since 1977 to 114. We thank Karlie Chilcott and her parents, Katie and Skip, and Matt Patrick and his parents, Kursten and Stephen as well as the rest of their families. Without the family support this program could not exist.

**General Membership Meetings** – usually bimonthly on second Tuesdays:

**March** – Our Annual Business meeting - the time to approve financials, elections and other business matters.

**May** – With the ever present building cranes dotting the Bellevue skyline, we invited Liz Stead, Bellevue Urban Planning Manager, to give us an overview of the projects under construction and on the Downtown Livability project City Council launched in 2012.

**July** – Our annual BSCA Picnic returned to the smaller and friendlier venue – Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center and gave our membership an opportunity to visit with our Kladno exchange students and all student parents and family members.

**August** – with the return of our Yao students a second picnic was planned this time hosted by Shogo and Fusako Kusumi.

**September** – Besides our usual welcome back to our Summer Exchange Students, Jared Schrader (Kladno 2004) shared his experiences on his Semester at Sea.

**November** – Rodger and Tina McCallum from Snoqualmie Sister Cities shared with us their experiences during their recent visit to their sister city, Gangjin, Korea.

**December** – Our annual Holiday Party – this year again at the Clubhouse at Tam o’Shater Golf and Country Club.

### **Other Activities:**

**April** – BSCA again forwarded the entry sent from Yao to the Young Artists Showcase at Sister Cities International – and we were very pleased to be informed that this entry was chosen as one of the Grand Prize Winners. Congratulations to Kanako Onishi.

**September** – BSCA again participated with a booth at the annual Aki Matsuri at Bellevue College – we thank Florence Metcalf as also Matt Patrick, the Kusumis, Helen Cattaneo and Bill Bockman

**September** – Pam Alspaugh and Inta Gotelli attended the WA Sister Cities meeting at the Nordic Center in Seattle. Bill Bockman and Florence Metcalf represented BSCA at the evening reception at the Japanese Consul General Omura’s residence.

**October** – Eureka Lim, Daniel Wong, Anne Chen, Helen Cattaneo and Florence Metcalf represented BSCA at the Taiwanese National Day reception at the Hyatt Regency in Bellevue hosted by General Director Kim.

### **Ongoing projects:**

**Liepaja Special School playground** – this project, begun in 2010 as a memorial to our past member Ann Knofel who was very much involved with our teacher visitation program started in 1998, is done. The final push for contributions to this project through the Project Karma finally reached the goal needed to order the main piece of equipment. This was installed along with other equipment and was ready for the returning students last fall.

**Fanija Matiss Music Scholarship:** BSCA, Liepaja committee, is coordinating this project - memorial donations to this fund allow selected Liepaja music students to attend concerts and other musical events in Liepaja or Riga. We were pleased that the first music students to be awarded concert tickets had the opportunity to join Fanija’s daughter, Vita Matiss, at the opening concerts for Liepaja’s new concert hall – Lielais Dzintars (Great Amber) last November.

## Bellevue Sister Cities Association NEEDS YOU!

Besides the Dragon Boat program, the March meeting will also be the time to approve our financials and the budget for the coming fiscal year - March to February for BSCA. Attached is the year end report - on one side the Association on the other the total for all four committees. Also attached is the proposed budget for the Association - each year we have budgeted a fundraiser of at least \$4000 to cover the student exchange but it has been years since we even came close. We have been able to continue the program due to your contributions - too often memorial donations for past members - for the student exchange and due to funding less than the four students proposed.

The income from dues barely covers our operating expenses and we thank all those who add a donation to their dues - however the problem of our dwindling funds remains. Please take a look at both and if you would like more detailed information, please contact our treasurer at [intabg@comcast.net](mailto:intabg@comcast.net).

This year, as the last two, all dues will be credited to the Association and we will need to continue this until we can increase our membership. We have been losing our core members to age and health issues but we have yet to do a membership drive - any ideas?

So - as we start this new fiscal year it is time to renew your BSCA membership. Dues continue to be \$30 individual or \$50 family credited to the Association funds to cover operating expenses. Please use the form below to send in your dues and any additional donations to association or to the committee of choice. Thank you.

### BELLEVUE SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Fiscal year March 1, 2016 to February 28, 2017

*Please complete the information below:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary committee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional committees: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

home e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

work e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership categories:

**Individual** \$30 (all to Association)..... \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse** \$20 (all to Association)..... \_\_\_\_\_

**Youth** \$5 (\$5 to Committee) ..... \_\_\_\_\_

**Business members** ...(\$50- to Assoc)..... \_\_\_\_\_

Donations:

To Association (for student exchange)..... \_\_\_\_\_

To Association (general purpose funds)..... \_\_\_\_\_

To Committee (please specify committee)..... \_\_\_\_\_

**Total enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Comments?

Please make checks payable to **BSCA** and mail to:  
BSCA c/o Inta Gotelli, 18911 SE 44<sup>th</sup> Way, Issaquah, WA 98027-9761