

May-June 2016
Volume 141



Membership Meeting

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Bellevue City Hall 7:30 pm

Climbing and Trekking - The Pacific NW and Elsewhere

Craig Van Hoy - Go Trek



Our Pacific Northwest offer a variety of challenging, intriguing climbing and trekking trips. Mt. Rainier might be one of the most popular, but it is only one of many - there is Mt. Baker, Mt Hood and Mt Adams. Mount Shuksan is the jewel of the North Cascades, and across Puget Sound the slopes of Mount Olympus are approached through the luxuriant Hoh Rain Forest.

Craig Van Hoy, owner of GoTrek, will tell us about climbing and trekking trips offered through Go Trek and Northwest Mountain Guides. He began his mountaineering career as a teenager by climbing virtually every peak in the Cascades and Olympic mountains. His first international trip, made

at age 20, was the ascent of a peak in the Indian Himalayas. Since then, he has reached the summit of Mt. Rainier more than 300 times and has personally lead more than 60 successful treks and climbs in Mexico, South America, Asia, Africa, Europe and Antarctica.

More at: <http://www.gotrek.com/> and <http://nwmountainshop.com/>

Annual Membership Picnic

Saturday, July 9, 2016 - 5:00pm to 7:30pm

Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center

Please mark your calendars - we will again hold our summer picnic at the Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center. Come, bring family and friends to enjoy this pleasant venue.

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/>

YAO, JAPAN

HUALIEN, TAIWAN

LIEPAJA, LATVIA

KLADNO, CZECH REPUBLIC

From your Editor...

As I finish this newsletter, I am hoping that most of you will at least take the time to scroll through it - and hopefully find some items that catch your interest. It has been many years since I took over this job from Pat Hale - and I share with her one 'gripe'... I do, as she did, always hope to get some more items from our membership - it gets a bit frustrating to have to search high and low for bits and pieces to fill these few pages. If you see more items on Liepaja - well - that is the sister city I know most about. Even as I was debating what to do with a blank back page in this newsletter an e-mail arrived from Evija Zagere at the Liepaja Special school... So, please, keep our newsletter in mind when you come across some interesting events or facts - especially items about our past exchange students - so many of them are doing so well.

Next - membership... and dues... we have lost so many of our 'older' members and have not done a good job of bringing in new ones - we need the support of every one of you. And that does not mean just sending in your dues - although we need those to cover our expenses (insurance that the City of Bellevue requires is the largest) but we also hope you will be there for our membership meetings (and there really are only four) - many of you do get to the summer picnic and the Holiday lunch. The May meeting should be of interest even if you're not into mountain climbing - and we hope to be able to introduce our selected exchange students for this summer then, too.

And see below... take a quick drive to check out the Dragon Boats - and maybe paddle along???



May is Bike Everywhere Month

With spring and warmer (and less rainy) weather it is again time to bring out those bikes - and ride them to work, too.

The City of Bellevue, along with King County Metro, Sound Transit, the Cascade Bicycle Club and the Bellevue Downtown Association are sponsoring a number of events including the Bike Month Challenge - register as a team or solo rider and participate in this regional event.

Please renew your BSCA membership!

We appreciate all of you who have promptly sent in your dues. Thank you! Dues for fiscal year March 1, 2016- Feb. 28, 2017 are still **\$30 individual or \$50 family**.

Your check to BSCA mailed to: Inta Gotelli, 18911 SE 44th Way, Issaquah, WA 98027



Dragon Boating - You're Invited!!

It was a pleasure to have Fong Ng from the Seattle Flying Dragons tell us about the rowers paddling the colorful boats on Lake Union. And not only there, they also row out of Kenmore. He emphasized that the people turning out for the dragon boats are there more for fun and exercise although some do participate in competitive rowing. There are practices scheduled every day of the week and all are welcome to join them.

The Seattle Flying Dragons participate in races in Seattle and surrounding communities. They will be at the Seattle Dragon Boat Festival this year on Saturday, July 30th at Lake Union Park. The Seattle Flying Dragons have also competed internationally - several times in Taiwan. They hope one of these days to compete in the annual Dragon Boat race in our sister city Hualien.

<http://www.seattleflyingdragons.org/>

Kenmore Air Parking Lot
950 Westlake Ave N
Seattle, WA 98109

Kenmore Squire's Landing Park
7515 NE 175th St
Kenmore, WA 98028

Practice Schedule
Mon & Wed @ 6pm
Saturday @ 8am
Sunday @ 3pm

Practice Schedule
Tuesday @ 6pm
Thursday @ 6pm
Sunday @ 10am



Sister Cities International Celebrates 60th Anniversary

At the Annual Conference this year SCI will look back on 60 years since its inception in 1956. Created at President Eisenhower's 1956 White House summit on citizen diplomacy, it was envisioned as a network that would be a champion for peace and prosperity by fostering bonds between people from different communities around the world.

By forming these relationships, President Eisenhower reasoned that people from different cultures could understand, appreciate, and celebrate their differences while building partnerships that would lessen the chance of new conflicts. These relationships based on cultural, educational, information and trade exchanges, would create lifelong friendships that would provide prosperity and peace through person-to-person "citizen diplomacy."

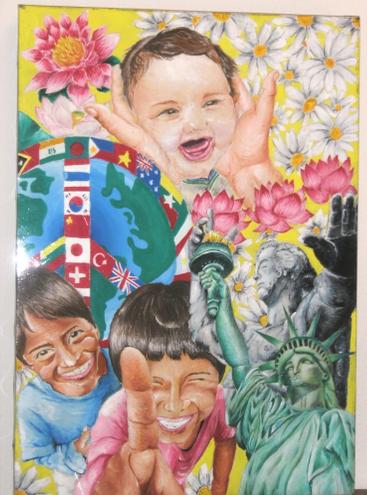
Since its inception, Sister Cities International has played a key role in renewing and strengthening important global relationships. Early partnerships included a trading relationship between Seattle, Washington and Tokyo, Japan, repairing post-WWII tensions by creating cultural and educational exchanges and, subsequently, lasting friendships. The relationships that endured were based on cultural or educational reasons that developed lasting friendships.

Bellevue first joined in this effort in 1969 when the city of Yao, Japan became its Sister City. During the 46 years of friendship, people from both cities have visited back and forth, as part of delegation visits between these two cities, student exchanges, staff exchanges or just as friends.

In 1984 Hualien, Taiwan, the Republic of China became Bellevue's second Sister City. The last two additions were Liepaja in Latvia (1992) and Kladno in the Czech Republic (1993). Over the years there have been many delegation visits, student exchanges, as well as just friendly visits with friends from these cities. This year we look forward to our student exchange, and the planning for our Asia delegation should soon have some definite dates. See below for our participation in the SCI Young Artist Showcase - we have had at least one annual entry (Yao) for longer than any of us remember.

2016 Young Artists and Authors Showcase Theme *Peace through People*

We are pleased that this year we forwarded two entries to SCI - one from Liepaja (Natalija Vecvagare, our contact at Liepaja City Hall, is holding it) by Marek Ziemelis, a 7th grader at the Liepaja 9th high school. He writes: *There are people of different colors, speaking different languages, having different abilities, some are disabled, but there is a common word that all of Earth's people want to have the same: peace.*



Our other entry is from Yao, and Tatsuya Sumitomo writes: *I'd like to express that the children of all over the world are laughing in the peaceful world. I want people in the world to be bright and happy.*



As usual, 10 finalists will be selected—five US and 5 international and these pieces will be displayed at the *Sister Cities International* 2016 Annual Conference in Washington, DC. One U.S. artist and one international artist will be selected as overall winners.

Besides the Young Artist Showcase, SCI also has had a Young Authors Showcase for many years, and in recent years has also added a Film and a Photography Challenge.

More information as well as the winning entries for as far back as 2012 you might want to go to: <http://sistercities.org/YAAS>

“Career Workshop” at the Liepaja Special School



Evija Zagare shared with us - with some delay - some of the goings on at the school. Along with some of the other holiday activities, the Liepaja Special School had a very special visit - Snow White and her seven dwarfs - each one of them demonstrating some specific job. It is the goal of the school to prepare their students for jobs such as carpentry, cooking and housekeeping according to their abilities to perform these in hopes that after leaving the school they would be able to find work in local businesses or in family enterprises.

Each student participated in one of 6 ‘workshops’, completed an assignment and received puzzle pieces. Once the puzzle was complete it turned out to be a magic key to open the trunk filled with valuables... bags of candy. And toward the end there was fun for all - including games with the dwarfs.



Seattle Latvian Dance Group to perform at the Seattle Library



The local Latvian dance group, Trjedeksnitis, along with Lithuanian and Estonian dance and song groups will perform **Sunday, May 22nd from 2 to 4pm** at the Seattle Public Library (1000 Fourth Ave) on level 1, the Microsoft Auditorium. The program is open to the public - parking available in the Library garage (\$7 weekends)

The Baltic Rites of Spring is a celebration of the spring season with traditional Baltic dancing and singing has become a tradition - going back over ten years.

Trjedeksnitis was formed some 50 years ago, dancers of all ages participate at Latvian community events as well

as locally. They were one of the events back in 1992 at the start of the Bellevue-Liepaja affiliation as sister cities. They have also performed at the Song Festivals in Riga.