

January-February 2017  
Volume 145



## HAPPY NEW YEAR

With January weather not always cooperating, we look for alternatives to a membership meeting - In the past we have planned a museum visit, and participated in some local events - so here are two interesting possibilities:

*We recently received an e-mail from Liz Lee at the Japan America Society sharing this information - see more at <http://jassw.info/event-2401122>:*

### Japan Update Series

#### "The Influence of Zen on Japanese Culture and Business"

*Sponsored by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and the National Association of Japan-America Societies*

**Monday, January 23rd, 2017**

**Kane Hall 225 University of Washington 5:30-8:30pm**

*Discover the influence of Zen Buddhism on Japanese culture and business...*

*Network with Guest Lecturer Reverend Daiko Matsuyama...*

The **Asian Art Museum** on Capitol Hill is always a great place to visit. Along with their permanent collections there is always some interesting exhibit - like the one running until Feb. 26th.

### TABAIMO:

utsutsushi utsushi

*Tabaimo (born 1975) is a globally acclaimed Japanese artist known for her immersive and thought-provoking video installations. Combining hand drawn images that evoke traditional Japanese woodblock prints (ukiyo-e) with digital manipulation, Tabaimo's animated installations offer a critical and complex view of contemporary Japanese society. More at: <http://tabaimo.site.seattleartmuseum.org/>*

If you would like to join a group visiting this exhibit please let Inta (intabg@comcast.net) know. Possible dates might be Sat. February 11th or 18th.

### 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

While we still have a bit of time to go in our own fiscal year which ends in February, we are gearing up for our next year.

First and foremost, finally a delegation will be off to our Asian sister cities thanks to the efforts of Helen Cattaneo, Eureka Lim and Bill Bockman - Thank you. We will be looking forward to a report on the delegation upon their return - the usual May membership meeting moved to June for this purpose. Return with lots of pictures to share!

Along with this newsletter you are receiving a flyer for our summer student exchange. We ask that you share this information with friends and family who have high school age students - over the years often it is through word of mouth that prospective candidates hear about this program.

The deadline for Sister Cities International Young Artist showcase is May 1st. We expect to get the annual entry to forward from Yao, and hope to also get entries from our other sister cities - and maybe one of these days we will even find someone to hold our own local competition....

We are featuring two events that might be of interest to some of you - see front page. There is some interest already in meeting for lunch and an art museum tour - let me know if you'd like to participate.

And last item - we really would like some more board members! Next board meeting is Tuesday, Jan 24th, 7pm at City Hall - please join us!

## 2017 Year of the Rooster

Roosters are loyal and they make devoted friends. They always keep their promises and are always true to their word. Sensitive individuals may find it hard to get along well with Roosters, because they always brag about themselves and their accomplishments, which may make others uncomfortable.



### *The Luckiest Things for "Roosters"*

**Lucky numbers:** 5, 7, and 8

**Lucky days:** the 4th and 26th of any Chinese lunar month

**Lucky colors:** gold, brown, yellow

**Lucky flowers:** gladiola, cockscomb

**Lucky direction:** south, southeast

**Lucky months:** the 2nd, 5th, and 11th Chinese lunar months.

### *Things That Roosters Should Avoid*

**Unlucky color:** red

**Unlucky numbers:** 1, 3, and 9

**Unlucky direction:** east

**Unlucky months:** the 3rd, 9th, and 12th Chinese lunar months

See more at:

<http://www.chinahighlights.com/travelguide/chinese-zodiac/rooster.htm>

## SAVE THE DATE

### Annual Membership Meeting

**Tuesday, March 14, 2017 - Bellevue City Hall 7:30 p.m.**

We will hear from Dr. Zaiga Phillips about her work in Latvia and especially in Liepaja. Also, that this is first meeting of our new fiscal year and we'll review last year's financials and approve the new budget.

### BSCA Summer Student Exchange Applications for Summer 2016 - Deadline Approaching!

With February 20th looming in the horizon, it is time to submit the application to participate in this unique program. Our exchange is a two part program: we match each selected student with a student selected by our Sister City counterparts, The two students spend much of the summer together - half here and half in the Sister City. It also has become very much a family centered program as it involves the whole family.

Since it's inception in 1977 - the first exchange with Yao - 114 high school students from our area have had the opportunity of spending part of their summer in one of our Sister Cities, and an equal number of students from our Sister Cities have visited here.

Flyer attached. Applications are available on our website [www.bellevuesistercities.org](http://www.bellevuesistercities.org).

## BELLEVUE - YAO... in the beginning



With the delegation visit to our Asian sister cities scheduled for May, we might take a look at the people whose enthusiasm for making friends across continents and cultures led to the formation of the International Cooperative Committee of Bellevue, WA back in the late 1960s - later to be renamed Bellevue Sister Cities Association. Two men met at an International Jaycees conference: Ken Fletcher from Bellevue and Ichii Fujii from Yao, Japan. It was a time when the idea of sister cities had become so popular that Sister Cities International became a separate entity from the National League of Cities - and these two men decided that their cities should be part of this effort.

Their city councils and many citizens behind them, in 1969 a delegation from Yao visited Bellevue for the official signing of the document establishing the sister cities relationship. Signing the document were Yao Mayor Ohashi and Bellevue councilmember, then Mayor Kenneth Cole.



In a couple of years we will be marking the 50th anniversary of this friendship - one that has led to many delegation visits for citizens of both cities, to student exchanges, to visits by city officials - both official visits for city events such as Bellevue's 50th celebrations as well as unofficial visits to newfound friends.

A few pictures from the last two delegations to Hualien and Yao:



2003 delegation led by Bellevue Mayor Connie Marshall joined by Councilmember Charles Mosher and his wife - BSCA president Vilis Barevics.

2008 delegation led by Councilmember Conrad Lee - BSCA president Hugh Burleson.



### It's official! Delegation visit to Hualien and Yao May 5-13, 2017

Thanks to the efforts of Eureka Lim, Helen Cattaneo and Bill Bockman the schedule for the upcoming delegation visit to our Asian sister cities is in its final stages. To date 17 people have signed up including Councilmembers Jennifer Robertson and Conrad Lee who will be leading the delegation. All participants are to have their delegation fee (\$150) paid by February 3rd and it is expected that all would also be joining BSCA if they are not members already. As we have done for the past few delegation visits, air travel is to be arranged by the participants thus allowing each to add additional excursions as desired. Any questions? Please contact Helen at [helen@cattaneo.us](mailto:helen@cattaneo.us)

## Holiday Luncheon 2016

Again this year we opted for the friendly atmosphere of the Clubhouse at Tam o'Shanter Golf Club - and again thank Justin and his crew for helping make it a pleasant event. Besides the friendship and fun, this year's luncheon was also an opportunity to share awards from Sister Cities International and from our own Washington State Sister Cities group - both for the Ann Knofel memorial playground at the Liepaja Special School. Again this year Barbara and Frank Sanchez joined us - Barbara presenting us with the WA state Peace Prize. We thank both organizations and are pleased to have our efforts recognized.



In addition, Sarma Davidson representing the Washington State Latvian Association recognized both Zaiga Phillips and Inta Gotelli for their long standing support of BSCA and especially the Liepaja committee.

As in previous years, we had three baskets replete with holiday goodies for three of our lucky attendees to take home.

Our very special thanks those who added a contribution towards our student exchange: Fusako and Shogo Kusumi, Zaiga Phillips, Teruko and Charles Pace, Mary and Janis Pelekis, Tom and Sarma Davidson.



### Latvian Coin Wins Award

Krause Publications (Iola, WI), an American publisher conducts an annual *Coin of the Year* awards program. Directed at the coin producing industry, awards are given for numismatic design, artistic vision and craftsmanship. A panel of international judges chooses the coins from those issued two years prior to the year of the award. Among the 2016 awards (for coins from 2014) is the five-euro silver coin from Latvia. Named the *Best Contemporary Event Coin* it commemorates the 25th anniversary of the Baltic Way demonstration which brought together citizens of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia - the flags of all three countries intertwined in the braid.

