



Annual Membership Meeting
Tuesday, March 14, 2017
Bellevue City Hall 7:30 pm
Caring for the Children of Liepaja
Dr. Zaiga Alksnis Phillips

It was at the instigation and due to the efforts of Dr. Zaiga Phillips along with many in the Seattle area Latvian community and BSCA members that led Bellevue and Liepaja to their sister city partnership - one formalized in 1992. As a pediatrician, it is no surprise that much of Dr. Phillips attention was on providing for children - and even before the sister city relationship was official, BSCA members were helping her collect books and medical supplies to be shipped to Liepaja.



We are all aware of Zaiga's contributions to our teacher exchange and playground projects at the Liepaja Special School. But she has done much more - it was Zaiga who along with Gunars Jaunzems, a Liepaja pediatrician, forged a relationship with Healing the Children that led to 20 Liepaja children receiving surgical help in the US. She was also involved in sending medical teams to Liepaja - she herself part of the first team - that provided medical help to over 300 children. But Zaiga's efforts were not limited to Liepaja, she has been involved in many projects to bring needed supplies and updated medical procedures to Latvia.

Her contributions have been recognized - in 2005 she received the Three Star CROSS OF RECOGNITION presented by the president of Latvia.

SAVE THE DATE

Membership Meeting
Tuesday, June 13, 2017 - Bellevue City Hall 7:30 p.m.

We look forward for the May delegation to our Asian sister cities to return and tell us about their visits.

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

March again marks the beginning of the fiscal year for BSCA - see the back page for renewal notice - we appreciate each one of you!

The biggest and best news for the coming year is the **delegation visit to our Asian Sister Cities in May** - and due to this, we will NOT have a general meeting in May as usual but do plan on coming to the June 13th meeting and hear about the visits to Hualien and Yao. We hope that the Tuesday evening meeting will work for those of you with graduating students in your families.

Again this year we're looking forward to our **summer student exchange** - interviews with applicants and their families are taking place - and there will be opportunities this summer to meet the students - both coming and going.

Sister Cities International has long held an annual **Young Artists Showcase** - and we hope that, as every year for longer than we can remember, we again will have an entry from Yao to forward. In the past our Yao entries have often has been selected among the best - sometimes the Grand Prize winner. It would be great if among our members we had someone willing to be in charge of holding a local competition so we'd have an entry from Bellevue to submit, too.

See more about this program at: <http://sistercities.org/YAAS>.

And coming in July will be our annual picnic - look for more information in the next newsletter but usually it is a Saturday in mid July. Since our Yao and Hualien students do not return until late July, in the past several years there also has been a picnic in August to meet them.

And please make an effort to attend this Annual Membership meeting - we need your vote to approve our financials for this coming fiscal year.



Meet Deputy City Manager Nathan McCommon

Recently BSCA president, Gregg Schrader, spent some time chatting with Nathan McCommon who, as of last October, joined Mary Kate Berens as Deputy City Manager. According to Brad Miyake, McCommon "stood out through his broad managerial experience in public service and practical knowledge of serving the public at the street level" referring to his having worked as a garbage collector, parks maintenance worker and traffic signal technician prior to attending the University of Kansas graduating with a BA in Spanish literature and a Masters in Public Administration. Since 1990 he has worked in municipal service for local governments the last of which were as City Manager, Tonganoxie, KS and as Senior Management Analyst and Convention and Entertainment Facilities Manager, Kansas City, MO. During his time in Kansas City, he was also involved with their Sister

City Program - Kansas City having 13 Sister Cities around the world - including Kurashiki in Japan and Tainan City in Taiwan. We hope to have him on board at BSCA.

Center for Czech Education and Culture recommends

Katya Kabanova

Seattle Opera
McCaw Hall

February 25 through March 11

In this romantic tragedy overflowing with immediately accessible, powerfully original music inspired by Slavic folk songs, the celebrated Czech composer **Leoš Janáček** weaves a dreamlike, visceral story of isolation and provincial oppression.

Sheltered Katya longs to be free of her dull arranged marriage and dreary home life. Recently awakened to true love, she remains dominated by a monstrous mother-in-law. Can Katya's fragile world survive when her pent-up passions finally burst forth? Acclaimed Australian director Patrick Nolan's all-new production dives deep into the emotional turbulence lurking beneath the surface of small town respectability.

More at: <https://www.seattleopera.org/on-stage/katya-kabanova/>

Information on other events of interest to our Czech members and friends at: <http://www.ccec-seattle.org/>

Do you have any news to share from our past summer exchange students?

We do enjoy hearing what our past students are doing with their lives... and hope that the experience we have provided for them has had a positive impact. As your editor, I do need you to contribute news (or I'll have to join all those out there creating false news...). I do look for items that might be of interest to you all - but any and all help is much appreciated. Inta

BELLEVUE - HUALIEN... a second Sister City

The year was 1981 when Timber and Fumiko Lin immigrated to the US with hopes of better life for their four children – Eureka at 20 the oldest. They settled in Bellevue and bought into a printing business – Bellevue Printing and Graphics. Not long after, they were contacted by the mayor of Hualien for help in establishing a new sister city in the US - these bilateral relationships provided by sister cities seen as an essential link in U.S.-Taiwan relations. Since the first sister city partnership between Taipei and Houston, TX in 1961 new sister city pairs had been regularly added and Bellevue had been identified a good fit with Hualien. (Seattle-Kaohsiung (1991) and Tacoma-Taichung (2000) came later).

By then Timber had joined the Bellevue Rotary and found help in approaching the City of Bellevue in his partner and fellow Rotarian, Harry McVey.

Finding the City Council and BSCA open to the idea, there followed many conversations – Eureka often doing the translating. In 1984 a delegation from Hualien arrived in Bellevue (Hualien Mayor Chen Chin Shui with BSCA members Arthur Webb and Jim Forrester pictured) that led to formalizing the partnership in June 23, 1984.



Anxious to get to know their new sister city, a delegation from Bellevue headed for its first visit to Hualien in 1985 - led by then BSCA president Patricia Swerda and then Bellevue Mayor Don Davidson. They were welcomed in Hualien by Hualien city staff along with members of the press. BSCA members present: Paulyne Batchelor, Mitzie Hashiguchi, Dan Parks.



Above - Hualien Mayor Chen welcoming the delegation.

Soon after Jim and Parky Forrester spent two months in Hualien teaching English, as also other BSCA members visited their new friends.



Exchanging gifts is a long time Sister City tradition, the first gift from Hualien to the City of Bellevue a pair of the Foo Dogs that guard the entries to Chinese homes - Bellevue City council thought two was too many - and so one Foo Dog arrived - seen here as then Hualien Mayor Wei Mu Chun, Bellevue Mayor Nan Campbell, Councilmember Don Davidson and TECO Chief Secretary Li Shi Ming look on at its arrival. For many years this 'old bachelor' guarded the entry to the old city hall (the present location of the Lexus dealership). It took two decades and the persistence of Councilmember Conrad Lee, to realize that Foo Dogs ALWAYS come in pairs - a male and a female, and the arrival of a new pair from Hualien

- you will find them keeping guard these days on the City Hall plaza.

Note: The pictures above can be found in the materials now at the Eastside Heritage Center - Florence Metcalf donated the boxes of BSCA records and photo albums in Hugh's possession at his death.

Bellevue Sister Cities Association NEEDS YOU!

The March meeting is the time for our membership 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.

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. For those of you who joined lately - your dues are current. Thank you.

BELLEVUE SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Fiscal year March 1, 2017 to February 28, 2018

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 44th Way, Issaquah, WA 98027-9761