



May-June 2017
Volume 147



Membership Meeting Tuesday, June 13, 2017 Bellevue City Hall 7:30 pm



Welcome Back our Asian Delegation

They are back from a whirlwind visit to both Hualien, Taiwan and Yao, Japan. The twelve delegates met in Taipei and spent a day exploring that city before heading for a couple of days in Hualien, then off to Yao for a couple of days there. The delegation was led by Bellevue councilmember Jennifer



Robertson who was accompanied by one of her daughters, and BSCA president Gregg Schrader.

In both places they met with the Mayors and other city officials, exchanged gifts, toured the cities and various places of interest. - and of course there were the lunches and dinners...

We are looking forward to hearing all about their experiences with lots of pictures

Our thanks to Helen Cattaneo for all her hard work to get this delegation on its way,



Annual Membership Picnic Saturday, July 8, 2017 - 5:00pm to 7:30pm Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center

Please mark your calendars - holding our summer picnic at the Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center is becoming a tradition. Come, bring your favorite picnic fare, your family and friends.

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

Maybe you noticed... at least I hope so... you're getting this newsletter a month later than usual - due to our moving the May general meeting to June so we could hear all about the Asian delegation's experiences. I like to get the newsletter in your hands a couple of weeks prior to our meeting... and we hope to see you there!

For many years the Yao committee had a booth at the September Aki Masuri... last year this event was taken over by a new organization, re-named the Japan Fair. This year it will be held in July at the Meyenbauer Center. But it will not be the only Japan inspired event this year... see back page. For those of you interested in flower arrangements the September event at the Botanical Garden is a must... it focuses on the simple Japanese arrangements used in the traditional tea ceremonies. Bellevue College missed the Aki Masuri and are planning a Japan Week themselves for October - it would be great if we had some volunteers for a booth there.

Be sure to put the Summer picnic on your calendar - both of our Kladno students should be there just prior to their departure for Kladno. The Yao committee will probably hold a second picnic for the Yao students - we should have more information later.

On his return from the delegation visit to Taiwan, Mark Chang shared this youtube video:

MAJESTIC ISLAND - 1950s TAIWAN

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Djr-cwm406c>

Published on Dec 31, 2016

Note: this film was shot in anamorphic widescreen. An "unsqueezed" version posted in the near term.

This historic film presents "Majestic Island," a 1960s color film that takes its viewer to Taiwan. "Until the end of World War II these people were headhunters. But now they hunt for tourists," says the narrator at mark 01:11. We see tribesmen perform a ritualistic dance (mark 01:33) and aerial views of farmland, later getting a ground view of Taiwanese working in fields or tending to their flocks. The tranquility stands in stark contrast to the Nike missiles shown at mark 04:00 that guard the coast. After seeing a review of Taiwanese troops and their air force the film introduces the viewer to some of the fighter pilots. At mark 07:15 a family sets off for the capital, Taipei, to see their oldest son who is serving in the armed forces. The viewer also takes a look at some of the island's universities and steel-making plants, as well as a fishing village on the Pacific shoreline (mark 10:10). Beginning at mark 12:54 the film shows a presentation of Chinese opera by young students and a trip down Green Lake with a Dragon Boat armada. We watch as the family bids farewell to their eldest son (mark 16:20) and board a bus for the return trip to their village.

We encourage viewers to add comments and, especially, to provide additional information about our videos by adding a comment! See something interesting? Tell people what it is and what they can see by writing something for example: "01:00:12:00 -- President Roosevelt is seen meeting with Winston Churchill at the Quebec Conference."

This film is part of the Periscope Film LLC archive, one of the largest historic military, transportation, and aviation stock footage collections in the USA. Entirely film backed, this material is available for licensing in 24p HD, 2k and 4k.

Summer Exchange Student Update

Kladno: Lenka Cernohorska will be arriving on June 16th at 2pm on KL6015. Waiting to greet her will be Sophie Sceats and family plus members of the Kladno committee - waving a Czech flag. We will have an



opportunity to meet them at the picnic on July 8th. Both girls depart for Kladno via Amsterdam July 16th - DL144 leaving at 6pm arriving in Prague at 5:45 the next day. Sophie heads back home on August 10th arriving at 11:10 (DL143)



Yao: Blake Ostrem will depart for Yao on June 28th via San Francisco - UA294 leaving at 7:28am. He will return, along with Mana Kasa on July 24th arriving SEA at 5:20pm on UA2074 from SFO. Let's make sure we meet them! Look for information on an August picnic to meet our Yao students... Mana will return home on August 18th departing Sea at 7:25 on UA 294 finally arriving home at 3:00pm the next day.

We hope they enjoy this experience and make a new friend for life!

Roland A Strolis 1938-2017



The Liepaja committee is saddened to lose another long time member. Since Roland was born in Liepaja, it is not surprising that he was among the first to support Liepaja's affiliation with Bellevue. He was an active member for many years, often attending BSCA events with camera in hand.

The Strolis family, much like so many other Latvians, left their country in 1944 to escape the Soviet occupation. The end of WWII saw them in Germany from where in 1950 they emigrated to the US, settling in the Seattle area. Roland attended Queen Anne High School and the University of Washington, after graduation joining many other Latvians at the Boeing Company where he worked until his retirement in 1998.

When in 2000 Liepaja marked its 375th birthday, Roland was an official delegate to the celebration. The city of Liepaja was redoing the Rose Square at the center of the city and had requested from each sister city a plaque with its city logo - these were placed around the border of the rose garden, each facing in the direction of its city. Roland had the pleasure of presenting the plaque, as well as reading the official statement



from the city of Bellevue - at right with city officials, the president of Latvia and delegates from Liepaja's sister cities.

As many of us, when visiting Liepaja, Roland made a point to stop at the Rose Square and have his picture taken next to the Bellevue plaque.



After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Roland often visited Latvia and spent time with family in Liepaja. During their first trip in 1998, while visiting his family plot in the Liepaja cemetery, he turned to his wife, Vivian, and expressed a wish to be buried there when the time came... sadly it has come way too soon, and Vivian is in the process of getting the necessary paperwork to bring his urn to Liepaja - hoping to do so by Roland's birthday - July 3rd.

2017 Young Artists and Authors Showcase *Theme: We're Going Places*

This year's theme showcases the importance of travel and exchange in achieving peace - students were encouraged to draw inspiration from their experience with sister cities - travel, exchange, international friendships and their goals to present their vision of where the future will lead. Again this year we received an entry from Yao to forward to SCI - Nanami Sakamoto explains her vision - *What I would like to express in this painting were the children who I want to meet in different cultures and the places I want to go in the world in the forms of photography. Then I put them all together to try to develop more profound understanding. I painted the ribbon in my work wishing for world peace.*



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.

Japan Fair 2017
Saturday, July 8th, 10 am - 6 pm - Sunday, July 9th, 10 am - 5 pm
Meyenbauer Center Hall
11100 SE 6th St., Bellevue WA 98004

Japan Fair celebrates Japanese art and culture - its mission to nurture and promote the traditional and modern cultural arts of Japan - to celebrate Japan's heritage while also sharing new trends in today's Japan. It is a communal endeavor of musicians, artisans, community organizations, and businesses from both Japan and the U.S. who come together to share their products, talents, and knowledge of Japan. Through live performances on stage, hands on exhibits, cultural workshops, and vendor booths, the public is immersed in the music, dance, artisanry, and philosophy of Japan. Entrance is free. See <http://www.japanfairus.org/>



This is the second year since the Japan Fair continues the legacy of the "Aki Matsuri", an annual festival in Bellevue that was presented by the non-profit organization Eastside Nihon Matsuri Association (ENMA) - this year it will take place in July. BSCA again will not be represented - maybe next year?

Coming later in the year - additional events sharing Japanese culture: (more in upcoming newsletters)

Saturday, September 10th at the Botanical Garden - A group from Nagasaki, Japan will showcase 20-30 flower arrangements traditionally displayed in a tea ceremony. They plan to be dressed in Japanese kimono to invite customers at the event and plan to serve tea (tea ceremony style) with Japanese sweets as well.



Saturday, October 7, 2017 Japan Week at Bellevue College. The Japanese culture club and faculty member Anne Matsumoto Stewart felt the loss of the annual "Aki Matsuri" festival on campus last year and will be sponsoring a similar event on campus. This will be a school-sponsored event with exhibits focusing on education and cultural awareness of Japan. It would be great if we could join them with a booth featuring our student exchange - we need volunteers to do this... we really miss Hugh and Florence is feeling all of her 94 years these days...

Trjedeksnītis Spring Folkdance Concert
Saturday, June 3rd - Seattle Latvian Hall
11710 3rd Ave. NE, Seattle, WA

Trjedeksnītis is Seattle's premier Latvian folk dance ensemble. It 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 performed at the Song and Dace Festivals in in the US and in Riga and will be performing at the Latvian Song and Dance Festival in Baltimore in July. This concert is not only a community event but also a fundraiser to help with travel expenses to attend the Song Fest.



The Saturday event includes dinner at 5:15, followed by cocktails at 6:30 and the dance performance at 7:00 to be followed by a late night dance party. There will also be a shorter performance on Sunday, June 4th at 12:30.

Dinner and concert recommended contribution \$60 - performance only \$20.

Reservations: seattle.trjedeksnitis@gmail.com or call Aiva at 708-408-7892

<http://www.trjedeksnitis.org/index.html>