

January-March 2018  
Volume 150



## **Annual Membership Meeting** **Tuesday, March 13, 2018** **Bellevue City Hall 7:30 pm**

***New Zealand - Some Highlights of previous visits and  
a look at Tiri Tiri Matangi - a wildlife sanctuary***  
Inta Gotelli will share some of her favorite places



Just as Seattle's Space Needle, Auckland's Sky Tower is a visible landmark of the skyline with views over the surrounding city - and - since this is New Zealand - one of many sites for bungi jumping...

While this last visit was mostly family - there was some sightseeing - a day tour from Auckland to one of the few open wildlife sanctuaries. Tiri Tiri Matangi, one of the Hauraki gulf islands, since 1984 has been the site of a major replanting program whose aim is providing habitat for native birds, reptiles and insects - over the years several endangered species have been successfully reintroduced and numerous projects are ongoing.



## ***A Celebration of Baltic Music*** **March 2, 2018**

**6:00pm Reception - 7:30pm Concert**

Meany Hall West Lobby and Theater, University of Washington

Hosted by the **UW Baltic Studies Program, Dept of Scandinavian Studies**, this event celebrating the 100 year anniversaries of the establishment of the Baltic Republics features the UW Chorale directed by Dr. Giselle Wyers and the UW Chamber Singers directed by Dr. Geoffrey Boers. The program, which will be attended by the ambassadors of all three countries, features works from the leading composers of all three countries from the last century and today. In addition, from 2:30-4:30pm the Baltic Studies program is hosting talks by the Ambassadors of Estonia and Latvia to the US as well as a political officer from the Embassy of Lithuania. Please see more information at: [music.washington.edu/events/2018-03-02/chamber-singers-and-university-chorale](http://music.washington.edu/events/2018-03-02/chamber-singers-and-university-chorale)

### **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 Alsbaugh 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

At the upcoming March meeting, before I share with you bits of my several visits to New Zealand, we will take a look at BSCA financials - this is our only business meeting - we will take a look at last year's income and expenses and approve our budget for the coming fiscal year. Included with this newsletter are the Year end profit-loss statement and the proposed budget for 2018-19. Please look them over and feel free to e-mail me with any questions at [intabg@comcast.net](mailto:intabg@comcast.net)

Our fiscal year is March to February and so, on the last page is your membership renewal form. Our membership has been on a decline for several years now. The loss of key people such as Hugh and Dorothy - people whose enthusiasm we sorely miss - has been hard to replace. Those of us 'holding the fort' for the time being need your help - not only your membership dues to keep us afloat, but also your participation - we could use a some new board members with ideas.

On the positive side, we hope that the two new members of the City Council will take and interest in BSCA. An all Washington event coming up in September is the Japan/America Grassroots Summit (see below) and we look forward to participating along with other Washington sister city organizations and their cities and the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington. Please consider contacting Gregg to offer your help - volunteers needed.

## Bellevue City Council - New Council Members

At their first January meeting, the Bellevue City Council elected John Chelminiak as the Mayor and Lynne Robinson Deputy Mayor for the next two years. The two new members were sworn in - these new members to the council represent the city's increasing population diversity.

**Janice Zahn** immigrated to the United States from Hong Kong when she was 10. She has lived in Bellevue since 1994, presently in the Greenwich Crest neighborhood with her husband and two daughters. With her background as a structural engineer and as assistant director of engineering for the Port of Seattle, one of the committees she serves on is the Eastside Transportation Partnership Steering Committee. Among others she is also is the Council's liaison to the Bellevue and Issaquah school boards.

**Jared Nieuwenhuis** is the son of Dutch parents and an immigrant from Canada. He has lived in Bellevue since 2001, he and his wife and young daughter live in the Lake Hills neighborhood. He represents the council on the Cascade Water Alliance's Finance and Management, Public Affairs, and Resource Management committees. Before joining the council, he served on several boards including the Bellevue Parks & Community Services Board.

We hope that within their busy schedules they will find time to visit with us and we look forward to their support for BSCA.

## HOST FAMILIES NEEDED - PLEASE CONSIDER PARTICIPATING

### *State of Washington to host the 2018 Japan/America Grassroots Summit September 18-25, 2018*

The Japan-America Grassroots Summit is an annual large-scale meeting of Japanese and American citizens, held alternately in Japan and America celebrating the historic friendship between Nakahama Manjiro and Captain William Whitfield. Whitfield rescued the marooned Manjiro in 1841 and shared his own home with him. Later, Manjiro's rare command of English and salutary experience in America became pivotal to the Japan/US relationship after Perry's arrival in 1853.

The grassroots Summit is unique in that its focus is on homesays for the guests - For about a week the hosts share their homes and the unique features of their communities with their guests. Following a day of welcome and opening ceremonies the guests meet their homestay hosts with whom they will spend the next four days, then followed by closing ceremonies and a farewell program. More than 100 people usually participate as guests, enjoying sight-seeing, cultural activities, welcome and closing ceremonies, and staying with a host family.

Along with the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington the City of Bellevue and BSCA will be participating in the Summit. This does involve recruiting volunteers to organize the activities as well as finding host families for the Japanese guests. This is an opportunity for us to work with the JASSW and other WA cities but our involvement will depend on volunteers and host families - are you interested to participate? Please contact Gregg Schrader at 206-605-6016 or any BSCA board member.

See more at: <http://www.manjiro.or.jp/e>



## Yao to Celebrate 70 years

Much like Bellevue to Seattle, Yao is a part of the Osaka-Kobe metropolitan area. It was a commercial center long before it became an official city incorporating on April 1, 1948. Among those present to celebrate its 70th year will be **Deputy Mayor Lynn Robinson** representing Bellevue. Arriving on a day prior to the festivities, she will be hosted by the Yao Sister Cities Association. Sunday, April 1st will be the official celebration, and prior to returning on Monday, she will visit the Osaka Castle along with some more sightseeing in the area.

In May **Concilmember Janice Zahn** will be visiting Japan, and is scheduled to spend a day meeting with Yao city staff. Recently she also had a chance to visit the Czech Republic and while there met with members of the Kladno Sister City Association and Kladno City representatives.



Yao City hall, *Kansai explorer*

## The Baltic Republics - 100 Year Anniversaries 1918-2018



Continuing keeping up to date with the programming to celebrate the centennial year for the Baltic Republics we feature the **Friday, March 2nd** concert at the University of Washington - see front page.

**Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>** at the Good Shepherd Chapel in Wallingford - Chamber music by Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian composers by the Skyros String Quartet and guests.

**Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>** at 1pm Latvian Hall - Outstanding women's vocal group PUTNI visits Seattle as part of their US tour. Traditional Latvian repertoire with a modern twist

**Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>** at the Latvian Center Imanta Dimanta and Friends Centennial Concert Tour. They are an international Latvian 'post-folk' band with indie rock and bluegrass influences. See more at [www.latvia100usa.org](http://www.latvia100usa.org)

A Baltic Celebration concert, hosted by the Seattle Choral Company and the Māgi Ensemble that includes six additional choirs coming together to sing Dubra's spectacular "Te Deum" is programmed for **Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>** in the beautiful St. Mark's Cathedral.

### BSCA Summer Student Exchange Deadline March 15 — Applications for Summer 2018

We hope this past summer's students, as many before them, will have fond memories of life in each other's homes and countries and we hope the friendships will continue to enrich their lives.

This long standing program is our most important contribution to international friendship-the first exchange with Yao dating back to 1977! Our exchange is a two part program: we match each selected student with a student selected by our Sister City counterparts and the two spend much of the summer together - half here and half in the Sister City. It also has become very much a family centered program - not only is the selected student involved, but so is the whole family.

It is now time to begin looking ahead to next summer. Most of our applicants hear about this program from past exchange students, friends or family members or from BSCA members such as you. Do let your family and friends with teenagers at home know of this unique opportunity - the flyer and applications should be available on our website [www.bellevuesistercities.org](http://www.bellevuesistercities.org).

## Bellevue Sister Cities Association NEEDS YOU!

The March meeting will 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 several, 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 of to the com-

### BELLEVUE SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Fiscal year March 1, 2018 to February 28, 2019

*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: