

April-June 2018
Volume 151



Membership Meeting
Tuesday, May 8, 2018
Bellevue City Hall 7:30 pm

Japan-America Grassroots Summit

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

Participating in this event next September will be an outstanding opportunity to meet guests and make friends with visitors from Japan. This year the Japan-America Grassroots Summit comes to the state of Washington - learn more about it from a representative from the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington (JASSW) and find out how to be a part of this event.

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 homestays 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, 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 and the City of Bellevue 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.

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED - PLEASE CONSIDER PARTICIPATING

Please contact Gregg Schrader at 206-605-6016 or gschrader@bellevuewa.gov

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

Usually at this time we're looking forward to our Summer Student Exchange... but we have 'dropped the ball' - the due date came and went without any viable applications. Maybe in recent years we have depended too much on word of mouth and our past students to get the word out... we'll have to do better next year.

However, we do have the **Japan-America Grass-roots Summit** to look forward to in September. At the May meeting we will have the opportunity to learn more about it and find ways of help - whether as a host family of volunteering to do some of the grunt work that makes events like this successful. Gregg has been working with City Hall and the Japan-America Society of WA to coordinate efforts among all the Washington communities that will be participating.

Coming up in 2019 will be the **50th anniversary of Yao-Bellevue sister city affiliation** - and we need to work with the City to plan for this event. Sadly - of the many people involved during the beginning years of BSCA none of them are with us any longer - but we hope to make sure their legacy lives on - and your help is needed.

And last but not least... we need you to be active members of BSCA - we depend on our you to keep up the programs that have been an integral part of who we are - and on your dues to cover our operating costs - have you sent in your dues?

Membership renewal form on the last page.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FLORENCE!

*Have you renewed your BSCA membership?
We appreciate all of you who have promptly
sent in your dues. Thank you!*

Dues for fiscal year March 1, 2018- Feb. 28, 2019 are still **\$30 individual or \$50 family**.

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

Grand Opening May 5 – the new Nordic Museum

Since its founding in 1980 the [Nordic Heritage Museum](#) has been dedicated to honor the legacy of immigrants from the five Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. For years the museum's home was in a 1907 red brick schoolhouse in Ballard, but the plans and fundraising in the last several years now are a reality – a new modern 57,000-sq. ft. museum and cultural center that will open its doors on May 5th.

The Mithun-design is organized around a linear “fjord” that weaves together stories of the Nordic region and of the Nordic-American experience. The grand opening will feature VIP guests from the US and the Nordic countries; traditional and contemporary Nordic music and dancing; festivities lasting all weekend long; and of course, the opportunity to experience all that the new Nordic has to offer — from their special survey of contemporary Nordic art.

Over the years the museum had also hosted exhibits from the three Baltic countries and we look forward for that to continue in the new building. See more: <http://www.seattlemag.com/arts-and-culture/inside-new-nordic-museum-behind-scenes-one-seattles-most-anticipated-cultural>



Deputy Mayor Lynn Robinson at Yao 70 year Celebration



Among those present in Yao to celebrate its 70th year was **Deputy Mayor Lynn Robinson** representing Bellevue. Arriving on a day prior to the festivities, she was hosted by the Yao Sister Cities Association. Sunday, April 1st was the official celebration, and prior to returning on Monday, she visited the Osaka Castle along with more sightseeing in the area.



2018 Young Artists and Authors Showcase *Theme: The Art of Diplomacy*

This year's theme, "The Art of Diplomacy" highlights the importance of citizen diplomacy and the innovative ways citizen diplomats achieve peace through people-to-people interaction.



As each year for longer than we can remember, we have had the pleasure of forwarding and entry from Yao to SCI. This year our artist is Ryunosuke Sakano and she titles her artwork *Wait, I'll be there for you!* She explains:

I learned that Red Cross Society is engaging splendid activities in many foreign countries and I thought that this is indeed the diplomacy.

Then I completed the painting, drawing members of Red Cross Society at the center of it and also drawing people who are engaging in jobs related to international relations, objects that are liked to foreign diplomacy

I especially made strong effort to draw the member of Red Cross Society who is running to the earth in the center of this painting and people who worked hard to recover the damages after the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. I hope that these activities develop international understandings and 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.

The Baltic Republics - 100 Year Anniversaries - 1918-2018



The Lithuanian and Estonian independence day celebrations behind us now, the Latvian to come on November 18th - but the many events celebrating the centennial continue - many of them the choral music performances that are a tradition in the Baltics.

Coming **June 30-July 8** In Latvia the preparations have been underway for this year's "**Dziesmu Svetki**" the song and dance fest, a tradition dating back to the 19th century that takes place every 5 years. This event brings together choirs and folk dance groups not only from Latvia, but also from the Latvian communities in the US, Australia and other countries - thousands of performers are expected to participate among these the Seattle Latvian folk dance group 'Trejeksnitis'.

In preparation for their Latvia tour, Trejeksnitis has been performing at some of the recent events - their Spring Performance will be on **Saturday June 9th** at the Latvian Center.

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:

BSCA c/o Inta Gotelli, 18911 SE 44th Way, Issaquah, WA 98027-9761