



Fall 2019  
Volume 156

## **Membership Meeting** Tuesday, October 8, 2019 Bellevue City Hall 7:30 pm

### **Welcome Back our Summer Exchange Students**



And again the summer is over and we will welcome this summer's exchange students back from Yao and Kladno. We look forward to have them share the highlights of their experience - both in our sister cities as well as hosting the students from Yao and Kladno.

Our Yao students will have some special insights to share... they had lived in Japan - returning there, even if to a different part of the country, gave them a view of the country from a different perspective - a different experience from most previous students.

It was also good to know that all of them got together for some joint activities - judging by the fun they all had at the picnic it was a good summer

And again, it is the care and support of the families involved as much as the students themselves that make this exchange possible. We thank everyone... for us, these exchanges are among the most important things we do - what better way to build people-to-people friendships across continents and cultures. So - a HUGE thank you to all the families - without them these exchanges could not happen.

### **Delegation visit from Yao - November 6-8th - Save the Dates!!!**

It might seem like there is plenty of time but time does fly... Your planning committee is still looking at several options for activities as well as possible venues for lunches and dinners. What we do know... There will be a visit to the Bellevue Botanical Garden with the planting of a memorial tree for the 50 year celebration and a Farewell reception at City Hall on Thursday. See next page for more.

#### **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**

## Delegation visit from Yao, Japan - November 6-8, 2019

Your planning committee has been meeting regularly – besides Gregg and Inta from BSCA Liesl Olson is representing the city and actually doing much of the planning work since several city departments will be involved. While the schedule is still a work in progress there are some items we know: We expect 12 delegates - 6 from the City of Yao led by Yao mayor and 6 YSCA members. They arrive early Wednesday, November 6 and their first event will be a light lunch and the memorial tree planting at the Bellevue Botanical Garden open to all who would like to participate. Likewise all will be welcome to the official reception Thursday evening at City Hall. One option we would like to consider is having our members join two or three of the delegates for Wednesday dinner – either inviting them home or to a restaurant – let us know if this might be something you would like to do.

The City delegates leave on Friday morning and BSCA will be planning the day for our YSCA visitors – some of the options might be weather dependent since it will be November – but the thought is to end the day with a potluck dinner at a private home. We welcome any suggestions you might have and let us know what you would like to volunteer for. There will be a finalized schedule in a few weeks...

## Meet our summer students

At our October 8th meeting this summer's students will tell us a bit about what the experience meant for them along with sharing some of what they did and saw and the people they met



**Daryl Glatz** - Over the summer, I have made so many good memories, met many kind people and have made special bonds with others that will continue for a lifetime. During the three weeks I was in Japan, every day I was busy going to new places and having new experiences. Out of all the places I have gone, I simply enjoyed seeing the townscape of Osaka. It was very exciting to see the difference between American and Japanese cities. The shops were closer together, signs and lanterns hanging over our heads, manhole covers had fancy designs on them and the streets were more vibrant. I could hear many shop workers calling out for customers in the unique Osaka accent. I really enjoyed walking down the streets of Osaka and encourage people to experience it at least once in their life.

**Evan Glatz** - During this exchange I have experienced the uniqueness of Yao, Osaka. I was shocked to notice that in Osaka, the western side of Japan, they use a different dialect than the eastern side of Japan. The dialect that they use is called "kansai-ben", and there are small changes in some vocabulary and grammar. For this reason, even a simple sentence like "take the trash out" can hardly be understood. Another aspect that was unique to me was the school system in Yao. The teachers teach the class using traditional methods such as black boards, paper and

pencil, and work books. There was hardly any technology involved. Another interesting part of their system was that the students cleaned their classroom. Everyday, after the last period ends, different students are assigned to clean the classroom. This was one of the many differences I observed between American and Japanese culture.

**Maddy Robertson** - My exchange to Kladno was amazing and such an educational experience. My favorite two days were the day I spent in Berlin, Germany and the day I spent in Prague. We saw so much both days.

In Berlin we walked 11 miles and saw the Berlin Wall plus tons of unbelievable architecture. We also ate curry-wurst, which I highly recommend. In Prague, we walked 13 miles and saw Prague castle, the astrological clock (old town Prague) and the Charles Bridge. That day we tried 4 different types of gelato!

Thank you Bellevue Sister Cities for the life-changing opportunity.





## Summer Picnic 2019



As we enjoyed this summer's picnic at the Crossroads Park we also admired the new Sister City signs the city installed as they updated the park facilities. It certainly was the right place to hold our picnic and we will be back next year!

We were pleased to have several City people join us - Councilmembers Jennifer Robertson and Janice Zahn who is our Council contact, and Deputy City Manager Nathan McCommon. Also join-

ing us was one of the candidates hoping for a spot on the City Council - Margie Ye and her husband and daughter.



The food was plentiful, the conversation animated and it was good to meet some new people who we hope will be there to support BSCA and our programs.

With plenty of open space the students organized races and games - with a bit of help from Sara and Dan Glarz.

### BSCA will again be present - this time at the Japan Week at Bellevue College

Not only will there be a BSCA booth on Saturday but several of the gifts BSCA or the City of Bellevue have received from Yao will be on display in the school cafeteria. There will be many activities, lots of food and entertainment and even a flea market... see more at <http://bit.ly/JWSatSchedule2019>

### 2019 JAPAN WEEK @ Bellevue College

Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> (Sat) 10am-5pm, Open to Public

Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> – Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> for BC Students

3000 Landerholm Circle SE, Bellevue, WA

Free Admission, Ample Free Parking, Free Wi-Fi

With Support from the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle





## Florence... our own TV star!?

When Florence Metcalf decided to donate the Ainu treasures brought back from Japan in the 1950's she never thought she'd be asked for an interview by the director of the new National Museum in Hokkaido. The museum is to open on 20 April, 2020 in time for the Olympics. The interview took place on August 20<sup>th</sup> - the museum's program director from Japan was there accompanied by an interpreter and a TV crew- and a few of us for moral support... in Florence's own words:

*A few days ago was the final interview for being a TV.star!? ! It was great and a lot of fun! Ru, an attractive smart woman, was the NHK TV language interpret-*

*er, from LA. She was a woman who came to US for college many years ago...stayed here. Now has a terrific job. Teppei Okusu, the NHK program director who made the long trip from Hokkaido, does not speak English fluently...but he and I conversed in Japanese! Also a photographer and a camera equipment man, from LA!! They were here for about four hours, .. a long time ...but we had a lot of fun, and Laughter!! Hot sunny Seattle day.*

Florence had worried about this interview since she was asked to do it... she prepared for it by displaying some of her Ainu collection and printing pictures of those long ago visits with the Ainu - she pointed these out as she was asked about the last Ainu chief and his wife as well as the bear festival they had the opportunity to attend. We hope to be able to share the final edit of the video when it will be available to us.

More about Florence's donations to the museum on our website in last year's newsletter:  
[www.bellevuesistercities.org](http://www.bellevuesistercities.org) under newsletters - vol 152 Summer-fall 2018



## The Baltic Way 30 years later...

It was 30 years ago on August 23, 1989 that over two million Latvians, Lithuanians and Estonians joined hands on the highways that linked their countries in a massive demonstration for national independence. It reached from Tallin in Estonia through Riga in Latvia to Vilnius in Lithuania - over 400

miles...they called it the Baltic Way - it was one of the momentous events of 1989.

It was the year the Berlin Wall came down, Poland's Solidarnosc won the national elections, Hungary re-declared itself a democratic republic, the Communist government of East Germany resigned, the Romanian people overthrew Nicolae Ceausescu, and Czechoslovakia went through a Velvet Revolution -it was the beginning of the dismantling of the Soviet Union... and only two years later the countries so long occupied by the Soviets had restored their sovereignty and rejoined the world community as independent countries again.

This year, not only in the Baltics, but everywhere Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians live events were planned to commemorate the Baltic Way. Back in 1989 the Baltic community in Seattle area joined hands around the Seattle Center fountain - this year - 30 years later - they joined hands around the Drumheller fountain on the UW campus.

The Baltic Way - a peaceful demonstration for freedom was one of the earliest and longest unbroken human chains in history - it inspired similar peaceful protests in other East European countries and, more recently, in Taiwan 2004, in Catalonia in 2013 and on the 30th anniversary of the Baltic Way, a 30-mile human chain, the Hong Kong Way was formed in Hong Kong as part of the anti-extradition bill protests.