

November-December 2019
Volume 157



Holiday Luncheon
Sunday, December 15, 2019
1:00 – 3:00pm

Tam o'Shanter Golf and Country Club

1313 - 183rd Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98008

1:00 pm Socializing and Appetizers
Luncheon at 1:30 pm

This year we will again return to the Tam o'Shanter clubhouse for our Holiday gathering - this is the event to bring along your family and friends, to catch up on news from the year about to end and share our plans for the Holidays and beyond.

As before, the chef will again will be preparing the menu but the dessert is on us - we are asking everyone to bring a plate of your favorite Holiday cookies to share.

An invitation to the Luncheon is attached = please let us know how many will be attending before Tuesday, December 10th.

The 50th Anniversary mugs will be available at the lunch - For a donation to BSCA - see next page



Bellevue - Yao City
50th Anniversary Celebration
18th Delegation visit - November 6-8, 2019

It had been way too long since we had the pleasure of hosting a delegation from Yao City - now they were finally here! The 12 delegates - 6 delegates from the City of Yao led by Mayor Keisuke Daimatsu and 6 representing the Yao Sister City Association, led by YSCA president Soichi Nada - even after a long overnight flight, were soon headed to Bellevue for their first official event. More on page 3

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

The 50th Anniversary of the Bellevue-Yao sister city affiliation was celebrated in style! There were speeches, tree planting, touring City Hall, Bellevue and Seattle - but mostly lots of fun and conversation - and food...

An event like this takes planning = and we have so many people to thank - to start Liesl Olson, who, barely a month into her new job, was asked to take on this - talk about baptism by fire... She did a great job assembling a team to work with - thank you, Liesl, for a job well done.

As BSCA president and also City staff, Gregg Schrader was there for every bit of the planning as well as all three days of the visit - including driving one of the vans. Thank you, Gregg and also your fellow bus driver, Doug Fox.

A huge thank you to Mari Al-Khazraji for all her work organizing the tours, but most of all her translating with a smile. Many others pitched in to help among them Tatsu Komada, Kyra Olson and Yuriko So. Thank you all.

A very special thanks to Nancy Kartes at the Bellevue Botanical Garden - she had this event in mind for some time and had been nursing the special maple that was planted to commemorate this day. The BBG also started to put up their annual Garden of Lights a bit earlier than usual to have some of them lighting the way for the Yao delegates.

A huge thanks to Linda Hurley at Bellevue High School who worked with her students to show off their Japanese language program - and to our past exchange students, Daryl and Evan Glatz for their participation in organizing this event.

Last but not least, we thank our volunteer translators, and the many city staff and BSCA members whose help made this a great visit.

Congratulations Florence!



A well deserved commendation! We thank Yoichiro Yamata, Consul General of Japan for recognizing Florence's many contributions to BSCA and the Yao committee. Upon receiving the award, Florence commented "but I've never been to Yao" further explaining that when her family lived as missionaries in the general area of Yao, the city had yet to be incorporated.

Florence joined BSCA some 20 years or more ago - never failing to pitch in whether it was to help out at the Aki Masuri or refreshments at meetings. It was most often at her home that the Yao committee met - where she proudly displays her many Japanese treasures - especially her collection of hashioki (chopstick rests).

Get your Bellevue-Yao 50th Anniversary mug!



These mugs were presented to the Yao delegation members as also to Bellevue City Council members and City Managers. For a donation to

BSCA one of these mugs could be yours!

BSCA was represented at the Japan Week at Bellevue College

Japan Week at Bellevue College starts out with a fair, this year on Saturday, July 26th - and we were among the many organizations represented. Our booth, along with other information on featured our summer student exchange which, in the case of Yao, goes back to 1977.

At the request of Professor Anne Matsumoto Stewart we shared several of the gifts BSCA or the City of Bellevue have received from Yao. These could be seen in the display case in the school cafeteria along with some Ainu items from Florence Metcalf.

Besides Inta, Jiro Akita and Gary Winchester spent some time 'manning' the booth. Thank you.





Bellevue - Yao 50th Anniversary Celebration 18th Delegation visit from Yao - November 6-8, 2019



The first destination for the Yao delegates was the Bellevue Botanical Garden where, after a light lunch, a leisurely walk through the garden led them to the Yao Garden. Already waiting for them there was Bellevue Deputy Mayor Lynn Robinson and representatives from the City Council, including councilmember Janice Zahn BSCA liaison to the Council, and the City as well as members of BSCA. Shovels were handy so that after the congratulatory speeches, all took turns to finish planting the 50th Anniversary maple.



Next the delegates made their way to Bellevue City Hall where they were met by Ian Toms for a tour of City Hall. At the end of which they were presented with gifts from various city departments.

Finally settled into their hotel, most of the delegates met several BSCA members over dinner at the hotel restaurant, where, it being Seattle Restaurant Week, they enjoyed the hotel's special menu. Yao Mayor Daimatsu along with three other delegates spent the evening as guests of the Japanese Consul General in Seattle.



Thursday morning, with the sunny weather still holding, city staff led the delegates on a tour of the Meydenbauer Bay Park, the Downtown Park and the Spring District. Lunch was followed by time to shop at Bellevue Square.

The highlight of the afternoon was a visit to Bellevue High School - where Lynda Hurley and her Japanese language students had prepared a program complete with a steel drums presentation. Welcoming remarks were by the Glatz brothers who were our summer exchange students to Yao.



Soon all were back at City Hall for the official reception - speeches by City leaders focused on the 50 years of friendship and looked forward to continued cooperation. Among the speakers was Yoichiro Yamata, Consul General of Japan who presented a commendation to longtime BSCA/Yao member Florence Metcalf, Dale Watanabe from the Japan America Society and Asami Tsuruta from the Japan Business Association of Seattle.

A gift exchange and dinner at Sea Star restaurant followed the reception.



Friday morning the City of Yao delegates headed back home, the YSCA delegates looking forward to one more busy day.



Friday morning plans for the YSCA members included sightseeing in Seattle... but our first destination ended up being



University Village where two of them had special purchases in mind... and then headed back to Bellevue for a tennis match with Deputy Mayor Lynn Robinson.



After exploring University Village and QFC, the rest headed out to West Seattle for a walk along Alki beach and lunch at Salty's overlooking the skyline of Seattle. And at Hiroko's request, a final stop at the Seattle Center for a visit the Chihuly Glass museum.



The Sayonara dinner saw them all, as well as several BSCA members and City staff, at Inta's with plenty of food, wine, con-

versation and laughter. Speeches were held to a minimum as gifts were exchanged - with plenty additional gifts for everyone there.

All in all, a whirlwind visit that left all of us, and from what we hear, our Yao visitors too, feeling that this visit was a great success and looking forward to meeting again.

We are looking ahead to the next one! In the meantime to our Yao friends- don't wait for an official delegation to come back to visit!



Meet Kaoru Isobe - delegation member and past exchange student - from 1989!!

I was an exchange student to Bellevue 30 years ago.

This time, I came here as a member of the delegation to celebrate the 50 year anniversary of Yao and Bellevue. I found that not only this relationship of sister cities but also the relationship between USA and Japan are kept well by so many people's love and efforts.

I was very impressed by the speech by Florence at the official ceremony. She told us about her respect for the Japanese who had moved to Bellevue many years ago.

And I wanted to tell you that 30 years ago during my stay here, I was so helped and changed by being part of your way of life, like how to express one's emotions, how to find a lot of fun in ordinary life, how to hug and kiss whomever you love!

I hope that this relationship will keep going for long time, and I will look for something I can do to further it.

Kaoru spent part of Friday visiting her host family from 1989 - she has kept in touch with them all these years. She had last visited back in 2012 when she also brought her daughter along. Our thanks to the Dunn family - you help us believe in this program!

