



2021 - Another year goes by as the pandemic continues...

As 2021 draws to a close we look back and wonder... we haven't been doing much so where has the time gone? Can it already be almost 2022??? And sadly, the end is still out of sight and for BSCA it means we keep hoping that soon we will be able to meet... Starting with 2022 we have several anniversaries to celebrate - 30 years for Liepaja-Bellevue in December 2022, then Kladno-Bellevue in 2023, and Hualien-Bellevue will be celebrating 40 years in 2024.

Remembering Dorothy and Art Webb



Just before the pandemic descended on us on the list of parks to be updated the Bellevue Parks Department had McCormick Park – a strip along several blocks of NE 12th just west of the freeway. Among the items to be refurbished was a bench... a special bench that had been installed back in 2006 just across the Webb's apartment in memory of Art. The city reached out to Phil Kushlan who had been instrumental in installing this bench... and Diane and Phil took this opportunity to have a second bench added beside Art's in memory of Dorothy.

With the pandemic slowly ebbing, the park was updated and the benches in-

stalled ready for a few BSCA members and friends to gather around and remember them both.

And so on a cloudy day in November the benches were duly dedicated... many memories of Art and Dorothy were shared by those present - they both were such a huge part of BSCA for decades. And as a perfect ending to the dedication Diane Kushan scattered beautiful rose petals on the benches. See more in following pages.

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
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As most of you should realize your board members have been serving for more years than they want to remember... and here again is a memory of Dorothy... it was at the Holiday Lunch back in 2013... Hugh Burleson had been serving as BSCA president since 2004 and his health was failing... in all those years no one had come forth to take over the job... so Dorothy took it on herself to remedy the situation... she stood up and looking at Gregg Schrader declared that he should take over from Hugh. And since no one dared contradict Dorothy, Gregg accepted the position and has been BSCA president since then... and not for lack of hoping for someone to take over from him...

It is due to Gregg, with the support of the board, that BSCA can look forward to the days when we can again plan activities... **Thank You, Gregg.**

**We will again skip the Holiday Lunch but
Plan to enjoy the Garden d'Lights
at the Bellevue Botanical Garden
Saturday, November 27 – Friday, December 31**



Garden d'Lights is back again this year with sparkling lights in shapes of plants, birds, animals, and cascading waterfalls. Many volunteers work throughout the year to make this happen. On the occasion of our Yao delegation visit they made sure the first lights were on to welcome them on our walk to visit the Yao Garden.

Lights will be on from 4:30-9:00pm including Christmas and New Year's Eve. Tickets required and are to be purchased on line.

Remembering Art and Dorothy Webb

Among those gathered to dedicate the benches were Phil and Diane Kushlan and Max and Linda Clark – Phil was Bellevue City Manager back when Kladno and Liepaja became Bellevue's sister cities (see back page) and Max was not only staff exchange to Kladno back in 1996 but briefly BSCA president in 2000 prior to following Phil to Boise. After the dedication and lunch, Gregg had arranged for a tour of Bellevue for these visitors – a look at what Bellevue now was some 20 years later...

As part of the dedication those present had a few words to say about their memories of Art and Dorothy – but for those present they meant the most to Diane Kushlan – she shared: *Art and Dorothy meant the world to us. Dorothy filled a void in my life, especially after the passing of my mother, grandmother, and close older woman friend. Dorothy was a model of for me of the love, confidence and self-assuredness that has rooted me as I have grown to be that older woman. When Phil and I decided to marry, we had no date in mind and so decided to marry on a weekend when the Webb's and Forrester's were coming for a visit to Boise. Both couples had such loving and supportive marriages, we wanted to honor them. We didn't tell them. It was a surprise wedding which any surprise getting past Dorothy was very difficult. But with the help of the Clarks, we pulled it off and the surprise look on Dorothy's face was priceless. Lastly, Dorothy taught me the value of beauty. In everything she did, from her dinners, cut crystal, and clothing was all done with such sensitivity. To go into any store, especially an antique store, was a treat with Dorothy. She could find just the right most beautiful cost effective item to purchase. To honor them, I brought the beauty of these rose petals to shower the benches.*





Summer Picnic 2021

It was July summer was in full swing and the threat of Covid had decreased somewhat so we decided to try getting together - this time at Inta's back yard where the trees give plenty of shade...It was a small gathering - so many of us still not comfortable leaving the safety of home. We were pleased to have Councilmember Janice Zahn and her husband join us as well as Councilmember Conrad Lee stopping by..



We shared our experiences dealing with lockdown and talked about future plans and hoped that soon we will be able to do more... But then the Delta variant came along and we are back to waiting for the next surge to run its course.

Foo Dogs and Quanyin - Updates from City Hall

It was back in 2017 when work started on the Sound Transit station in downtown Bellevue and four years later it is finally nearing completion as trains are appearing on the light rail tracks and crews are starting to evaluate controls, safety and signal systems. During construction the plaza was taken over by Sound Transit and our Foo Dogs and Quanyin were put in storage (once again for the dogs...)

We asked where are they now? *The 2 Fu Dog statues have been on the plaza (secured in wood boxes) for a while. The plaza won't be turned over to the city until likely March. There will likely be a small-scale event to reopen the plaza.*

We will look forward to the reinstallation of these gifts to the City of Bellevue from Hualien and remember when, back in July 2013, on the 30th anniversary they took their places on the plaza.

See more in Vol. 125- Summer 2013 and yes, you can read it on our website.



2022 Young Artists and Authors Showcase

This year's theme, "Generation Rescue: Sustainable Water for All"

What does water sustainability mean to you? How does your culture value water and water sustainability? How has your community been affected by climate change and water disruption? How can you, as a future leader, contribute to the solution?

Sister Cities International Young Artists and Authors Showcase (YAAS) encourages youth from around the globe to express the mission of Sister Cities International through original artwork, literature, film, and photography- students interpret a designated annual theme into works of art and literature. Entries from sister city member communities are sent to Washington, DC, where a panel of judges selects Finalist and Grand Prize Winners based on originality, composition, and theme interpretation.

While we seldom have had entries from our own city, our sister cities have participated - Yao every year often their entry among the finalists. More at <https://sistercities.org/2022-yaas>

BSCA on the First European Visit,... June of 1992

It was the end of the '80s Bellevue had two sister cities – Yao in Japan and lately Hualien in Taiwan – maybe time for another sister city but this time in Europe? Why not in Latvia thought Zaiga Phillips and broached the idea to the local Latvian community – they were soon on board and Liepaja, Latvia was suggested to BSCA. Soon another option was put forward – Kladno, just outside of Prague, in the Czech Republic. At first there were some objections – these cities were in Eastern Europe... but then the Soviet Union collapsed and it was decision time – which city would work best?

Time to visit them both and find out. And so, a group of 41 members and friends including then City manager Phil Kushlan and Bellevue Mayor Terry Lukens headed off to Europe. BSCA's own travel agent, Billy Franklin, had planned the trip – not just to the two cities, but now that so much more of Europe was open to travelers the opportunity presented to visit new places. Arriving in Frankfurt the group headed off to Berlin, Warsaw, Krakow, Budapest eventually arriving in Prague – and the visit to Kladno.



Back in Frankfurt, part of the group headed back home, the rest to Riga and on to Liepaja. Liepaja was prepared for the visit and there followed tours of the city, schools, hospitals, the port and of course the beaches.

And Dorothy Webb had firsthand experience with Liepaja's first responders when she stumbled on the hotel stairs and broke her arm...

