

January-February 2013
Volume 122



General Membership Luncheon

Sunday, January 27, 2013

12:00noon—3:00pm

Taipei Economic and Cultural Office Seattle
1008 140th Ave. NE, Suite 108 Bellevue

Welcome the Chinese New Year Lunch Program by Students of the NW Association of Chinese Language Schools

We are in for a treat! Besides the gourmet dim sum and other special dishes that Eureka Lim has selected for our lunch, students from member schools of Northwestern Association of Chinese Language Schools (NWACLS) will entertain us with performances related to the coming New Year – a Lion Dance performed by campers at the Chinese Youth Summer Camp, a costume performance, Ms. Sue Hwang and her students will demonstrate calligraphy, and we will be treated to a performance by the Seattle Taiwanese Children's Choir.



NWACLS, founded in 1994, has 14 member schools in Washington state and Alaska.

Our thanks to Ms. Tiffany Kan for making these arrangements, and to all the students who will be participating.



Please see the enclosed/attached flyer to send in your reservation.

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—Hugh Burleson Secretary—Gary Winchester Newsletter Editor—Inta Gotelli

From Your President

The Year Ahead — As you will read up front in this newsletter, we are starting January 2013 in an unusual way. Instead of holding our first general membership meeting in City Hall on the second Tuesday, we will take advantage of our local Taiwan community's gearing up to celebrate the Chinese New Year by accepting the kind offer of the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) to stage a special program of cultural activity for us. This will be at their Bellevue center half way between the Crossroads area and Bellevue's downtown, just off 8th Avenue NE.



Those of us who have been BSCAers for ten years or more will recall the delightful and varied all-Chinese program that our Hualien committee put on earlier in the 2000s, also in January. Or, more recently in early Fall of last year, the general membership meeting where the Hualien Committee treated us to a demonstration and exhibit of Chinese calligraphy. Easily reminders of the rich depth of Chinese culture, which was flourishing about the time long ago when classical Greek culture also flourished.

We may look forward, too, to more activity on Chinese themes later this year. For, with good help from the City staff, we have a breakthrough on installing and dedicating the "Foo Dogs" that have sat patiently for so long in storage after being gifted to Bellevue by Hualien City and its sister-city activists. We hope to see a visit by the Hualien mayor and his aides at the dedication, at a date still to be determined.

Many of you shared with us the special 20th anniversary celebration in December at City Hall of our Bellevue-Liepaja affiliation. So, to properly round out the year's programming we should also hope that the Yao and Kladno committees will get creative and develop suitable programs for the benefit and enjoyment of our members at upcoming general meetings.

LIELS PALDIES! Thank You to our Sponsors Our Bellevue-Liepaja 20 year Celebration would not have happened without your support! —to Sven and Melinda Bitners \$500 and a huge thank you to the Bitners family for their support of BSCA, Liepaja over the years... Imanats Bitners is a Liepaja native! Additional sponsorships from Tom and Sarma Davidson, Mary and Janis Pelekis, Zaiga Phillips, Imants and Maija Ikstrums, Andris and Inara Rogainis, Beatrice Mitman and to Inta Gotelli for making Ligita Pudza's visit possible. Thanks also to those who donated to the BSCA, Liepaja projects - Arija Mikelsons, Bruce Knofel, Billie and Wendell Franklin, Cathy Cline, Shogo and Fusako Kusumi, Varia and Graham Christopher, Juris Jansons, Petra Walker, Aija Pakulis, Susan Wineke, Robert Mikelsons. And thanks to all those whose continuing support over the years make our projects happen.

Bellevue-Liepaja Sister City 20 year Celebration

December 14th was an evening to remember our commitment with Liepaja, Latvia since 1992. Among the more than 70 guests many had ties to the very beginnings—past City Manger Phil Kushlan who, along with then Councilmember Terry Lukens were part of the first delegation to Liepaja, as well as Councilmember and past mayor Don Davidson. Dorothy Webb, BSCA president back in 1992 presented Bellevue Mayor Conrad Lee with 4 international dolls—one for each or our Sister Cities. Present were also Councilmember Claudia Balducci, who along with then Councilmember Grant Degginger, led our last delegation visit to Liepaja, her husband, and Kathy Degginger.

We were pleased to see several past staff exchange to Liepaja—Kathy Barker, Paul Cornish, Ian Toms, Barbara Ramey as well as several other Bellevue staff members. As also present was Juris Jansons, who, along with Lucien Holmes our first exchange student —visited Liepaja in 1994.

And of course, our very special guest for this occasion was Ligita Pudza—our main contact with Liepaja City Hall—and by now a dear friend to many of those who have spent time in Liepaja. She brought greetings from Liepaja Mayor Uldis Sesks and presented BSCA with a Liepaja flag.

Letters of congratulations were also read from past Liepaja Mayor Imants Vismins who came to Bellevue in 1992, Talivaldis Deklaus and Miervaldis Ziemelis, both teachers who received books and computer programs from BSCA.

Entertainment was provided by the Seattle Latvian chorale under the direction of Maija Riekstins performing in their beautiful national costumes.

Thanks to Inta Gotelli for coordinating the event with City Hall liaison Susan Barber. Liepaja Committee members Zaiga Philips, Beatrice Mitman, Mary and Janis Pelekis, Inara and Andris Rogainis, Cheryl Kuhn, Inta Gotelli and Sarma Davidson formed the planning committee and also provided the Latvian theme catering.

MC Sarma Davidson

BELLEVUE—LIEPAJA CELEBRATE 20 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP

These and more pictures on our website!



Thanks to Andris Rogainis for being our photographer

... and our next 20 year Celebration... Bellevue-Kladno, Czech Republic

The ink had barely dried on the Liepaja- Bellevue proclamation when it was time again to bring out the flags and receive the next delegation. In April 1993 a delegation from Kladno—Mayor Marie Bednorova, accompanied by several City Council members arrived in Bellevue. There followed receptions, visits and on April 5th, the official signing of the proclamation by then Bellevue Mayor Cary Bozeman and Kladno Mayor Marie Bednorova making it official—Kladno in the Czech Republic became Bellevue's second European Sister City.



Over these many years BSCA members and friends have visited Kladno on delegation trips as well as met with Kladno officials and Kladno Sister City members when visiting the Czech Republic. Since 1994 Bellevue and Kladno students have participated in the BSCA Summer Student Exchange program, as well as Kladno and Bellevue Staff have spent time in each other's cities sharing their expertise and experiencing a different culture.



Kladno also has a very active Sister City Association and we have had the pleasure of hosting some of their members, as well as being royally received by them. Not least have been the personal friendships that have followed the official visits—many of the Kladno committee members have had the pleasure of hosting their Czech friends on return visits to Bellevue.

We look forward to the next delegation visit!

From the Liepaja Special School

Among the many greetings the Liepaja committee received was one from Dace Kreismane, the Special School parent who has been the lead on our Ann Knofel playground. Two years after her visit here, she says she's still in a 'long term shock' - her experience changed her outlook so much—gave her self-confidence and a more hopeful view of the future. Although finding funding to finish the playground project has not been fruitful, through her pursuit of grant money and other sources of support she has met many people to whom she can turn for advice and help. The parent organization 'Hope, Faith, Love' has been active in finding ways to open doors for their children—and have seen a change in the attitude of Liepaja people to their sons and daughters. Their efforts have been rewarded by access to music and folklore teachers, and they hope to take the students for swimming instruction. On a personal note, she says son Karlis is taking accordion lessons and loves it. Their efforts have been noticed—the group was one of five most active groups cited by the City of Liepaja.



Information on the playground project on our website: <http://www.bellevuesistercities.org/>

BSCA Summer Student Exchange—Applications for 2013 Now Available!

This long standing program is our most important contribution to international friendship and we look forward to next summer and a new group of students to share our family centered exchange experience. Applications are available at our website www.bellevuesistercities.org. Please share the flyer with family, friends and neighbors who might be interested in being part of this experience. Deadline for applications is usually mid-March.