



Membership Art Museum Tour
Saturday, January 7, 2012
Seattle Art Museum—11:00am—noon

SAM Special Exhibit—LUMINOUS: *The Art of Asia*

Our January BSCA membership meeting is moving this month! Instead of our usual Tuesday evening at Bellevue City Hall, we will be meeting at the Seattle Art Museum in downtown Seattle. Inspired by Catherine Roche's talk to us at the November meeting, we decided that a tour of the exhibit that she was curator for was in order—and that we would tour the exhibit as our regular January meeting.

YES—this is another change for BSCA... but all too often our January meetings have had to be cancelled due to weather conditions—and as with our Holiday Dinner—this year our Holiday Luncheon—it is time to try something new.

Our tour is scheduled for Saturday, January 7th at 11am. (the 8th is the last day for this exhibit). We have made reservations for a private tour, after which one option might be to continue to explore the museum.

We will need to know how many people will be participating. BSCA will be covering the charge for the private tour but we are committed to at least 10 paying visitors—the group rates are \$14 for adults, \$11 for seniors and \$8 for students.

Additional plans may include lunch after the tour, either at the museum restaurant or one of the many places to eat nearby. Please mark your calendars! We will need to know the final number no later than Thursday, January 5th—please see additional information on inside 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's Message

In east Asia, the Year of the Rabbit ends, dramatically replaced by the Year of the Dragon. Perhaps a suggestion of new beginnings and perhaps more activism. Staving off economic dragons by financial savvy. And, surely, greater participation could keep at bay any dragon of loneliness.

So, we hope you'll join the BSCA crowd going to the Seattle Art Museum on the 7th for an educational/recreational tour of the "Luminous" exhibit of East Asian art soon to close down.

And, once again, we would much appreciate your sharing with the board your newly refreshed ideas for things BSCA members could do together in the coming year in support of our logo slogan "Expanding Horizons"—something needed not just by our high-school exchange students, but by all of us. Meditate on this for just 20 minutes, and I bet you can come up with a good suggestion.

Meanwhile, a happy (Gregorian Calendar) new year and Lunar Calendar (dragon) new year to each of you. I look forward to seeing you often, starting with the first week of this new year.

Hugh Burleson

Happy Chinese New Year—Year of the Dragon

Chinese New Year occurs in the early months of our calendar year, typically January or February beginning on the first new moon of the lunar New Year and ending two weeks later with the full moon - this year it falls on January 23rd. This is the first of 15 days of celebration and the start of the Year of the Dragon. While the Year of the Rabbit was characterized by calm and tranquility, the Year of the Dragon will be marked by excitement, unpredictability, exhilaration and intensity. The Rabbit imbues people with a sense of cautious optimism, but people respond to the spirit of the Dragon with energy, vitality and unbridled enthusiasm, often throwing all caution to the wind - which can be an unwise move: The Dragon is all about drama but if you take unnecessary risks, you may find yourself starring in your own personal tragedy.

There are many traditions and customs associated with the Chinese New Year. The first day is reserved for family and the last day is marked with the Lantern Festival and an elaborate Dragon Dance, but the days in between are also marked with tradition. During this part of the two week holiday the Chinese will visit family and friends and many will pray at local temples. Red envelopes called lai see are given out regularly throughout the New Year's holiday. When arriving as a guest to the home of family or friends, it is common to bring a small gift for the host. This could be candy or even a bag of oranges or tangerines. A lai see filled with a new bill of "lucky money" should be placed inside the bag of citrus. A website for information is <http://chinesenewyear2012.net/>

The Seattle Chinatown-International District welcomes you to the 2012 Lunar New Year Celebration on Saturday, January 28th. Come to participate in authentic cultural activities featuring calligraphy drawing, Chinese yo-yo and games and activities throughout the District. There is nonstop entertainment throughout the day— Lion and Dragon dances, Taiko drumming, martial arts and their third annual Children's Parade Contest where kiddies can strut their best New Year's cultural outfit on stage! The celebration begins at the Wing Luke Museum on Saturday, January 21st. For more information: <http://www.cidbia.org/events/lunar-new-year-celebration-2012-year-of-the-dragon>

Membership Update

Thank you to Megumi Kobayashi's sponsorship contribution to BSCA. Megumi was instrumental in making our October Washington-Japan Celebration the successful event it was. Thank you!

During his recent visit in Bellevue, Joseph Partington from Saskatoon, Canada decided to join BSCA to commemorate his aunt Parky Forester - thank you - and we appreciate the Jazdzewski family (Jonathan Yao '07) for renewing their membership.

Thank you also to Mara Johnson and Karen Corbitt for their donations in lieu of attending the Holiday Luncheon. A reminder - our fiscal year is March to February but members joining in the last quarter are pre-paid for the next fiscal year.

BSCA Has a Website!

Thanks to Gary Winchester you can now read our news at <http://www.bellevuesistercities.org/> and also find us on Facebook and Twitter! Add this site to your favorites and keep up with our activities - Bill Bockman has agreed to update the site on a regular basis. We welcome suggestions as to additions and improvements and we thank both of them for their efforts to have us join the internet community!



BSCA Holiday Luncheon 2011

Continuing making some changes this year we moved our annual Holiday Dinner to an earlier time - and so we celebrated with a Sunday Luncheon on December 11th! Not only that, but after the Gala party in October co-hosted with the City of Bellevue it was time for a more relaxed event - and an almost home cooked meal... your caterers for the afternoon were your board members - Heidi Ressler, Florence Metcalf and Inta Gotelli - and Mary and Janis Pelekis (Janis has in the past catered some of our events but he is now retired) pitched in when they arrived (and lent us the tableware, too - thank you).



Among those attending were Bellevue Mayor Don Davidson and Councilmember Conrad Lee, both longtime supporters of BSCA. As in so many of our events the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office was represented by Andrew Yang and Amy Yaw. We were very pleased to have two of our past exchange students - Madelyn Kinzer (Yao '10) and dad and Bianca Blanch (Yao '11) and mom join us - they along with Hugh and the Franklins comprised a 'Yao table'. Florence's granddaughter helped with the table decorations, her daughter and friend provided us with music before and after dinner. Inta had again filled baskets with Holiday goodies to end the evening with a raffle. All in all - an enjoyable afternoon.



Art Museum Tour— LUMINOUS: *The Art of Asia* Saturday, January 7, 2012, Seattle Art Museum 11am—noon

Docent Deborah Prince will meet at our group at 11:00am near the bottom of the escalators and the membership desk. There will be a public tour starting in the galleries at the same time so we need to make sure we do not get in the way of that group. To help you recognize her, she's about 5' 6" with dark hair and will be wearing a red jacket.

We need to let the museum know the number participating by the 5th—both those who have SAM memberships and those who will be paying the suggested fee —so **please let Inta Gotelli know ASAP that you will be joining the tour**—e-mail intabg@comcast.net or phone 425-957-1363.

Also, we think carpooling is the way to go, so let us know if you would like to be picked up and/or if you would have room in your car for a few additional passengers. We'll decide on lunch or other post tour options during or right after the tour. Let's make this a fun 'meeting'!

Sister Cities International - 2012 Showcase Now Announced!

The theme for 2012 - *Youth as the Catalyst for Change.*

The world today is more connected than ever. With the help of social media and innovative new methods of communication and mobilization of groups, change can occur at a faster pace than ever before. Throughout the world, this new generation of youth is harnessing this power to create change and promote progress. The 2012 theme is an opportunity for you to use artwork to express how communication, technology, and individual initiative can lead to dramatic social change. Submissions can highlight your experience with social media, how you are creating change in your community, or how global communication and exchange has had an impact on your life.



Since 1988, the Sister Cities International Young Artists Showcase has encouraged youth from around the globe to consider the honorable mission of Sister Cities International and express their interpretation of that mission promoting peace through mutual respect, understanding, cooperation through one individual, one community at a time. To submit an entry, a community must be a member of Sister Cities International. BSCA has often submitted the entries from young artists from Yao and often had their works among the finalists (the 2011 entry by Haruka Ikeda pictured) - and occasionally so have entries from Kladno and Liepaja. Only rarely have we been able to submit entries from our own young artists for lack of someone willing to take on the organizing a competition - but we keep hoping that we will find someone to work on a local competition—maybe this year?



BSCA Summer Student Exchange Applications Now Available!

We again look forward to a new group of students to share our family centered exchange experience. This long standing program is our most important contribution to international friendship and we look forward each year to meet the students and families who apply to participate.

The five students and their counterparts who participated last summer are pictured in the flyer enclosed. (at right the Kladno and Liepaja students) Please share it with family, friends and neighbors who might be interested in being part of this unique experience. Deadline for applications is usually mid-March.

Sister Cities News: Bud Bard shared with us an article from the December issue of Seattle news website Crosscut.com written by past Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels - excerpts follow:

Last Saturday (Nov. 26), former Mayor Gordon Clinton died at the age of 91. Mayor Clinton was elected Seattle's 44th mayor on March 6 and was reelected in 1960 and became the first Seattle mayor to serve two four-year terms. Mayor Clinton began Seattle's first Sister City relationship with Kobe, Japan. This relationship continues today, more than a half-century later. Mayor Clinton was instrumental in the Sister City movement in Seattle and nationwide. He served many years on the Board of Sister Cities International. The whole article can be found at:

<http://crosscut.com/2011/11/23/seattle-city-hall/21594/Gordon-Clinton%2C-elected-mayor-a-half-century-ago%2C-helped-create-modern-Seattle/>

Also, an interview with former Mayor Clinton can be found at

http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=7697