



Annual Membership Picnic
Saturday, July 9, 2016 - 5:00pm to 7:30pm
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center
5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE., Bellevue

Come and enjoy some fun company and good food!

We will again hold our summer picnic at the Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center and, as usual, this event will be a pot-luck. This is a good time to invite along friends or family members, especially those who might be interested in joining BSCA.

Please bring either appetizers, a salad or your favorite dish to share. Your board will provide refreshments and a dessert. Come a bit earlier to help set up or stay later and help clean up!

Directions: From I-90 East take the Lakemont Boulevard SE exit (Exit 13), toward SE Newport Way – stay on your right as you exit. Turn right and go straight up the hill on Lakemont Boulevard SE. Continue through two stop lights - the first at the Matthews Thriftway shopping center, the next an all way stop sign. Look for Fire Station #8 on your right and shortly after a left turn lane into the Park – about 2 miles from the freeway exit.



Later this summer the Yao and Hualien committees will be hosting a welcome for our Yao and Hualien exchange students - Christian Wordsworth back from Yao along with Maiko Kurata from Yao, Caterina Cattaneo back from Hualien along with Ruizhi Gu. Look for more information later.

Coming in September... Membership Meeting on Tuesday, September 13th

As is our tradition, we will meet our summer exchange students, hear about their adventures and in addition we will plan to have an additional program. More in the next newsletter.

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/>

From your Editor...

I am sure many of you watch PBS programming, listen to KINGFM or other public radio stations... and are constantly barraged with requests for financial support. It can get a bit old... especially during their major fundraising events... but we at BSCA are in the same 'boat' - without your support - your membership dues and donations - we won't be able to fund our projects - the summer student exchange our main one. Many thanks to those who added a contribution to the student exchange to your dues... Charles and Teruko Pace, Pam Maloney, Sarma and Tom Davidson, Kathy Cline, Inara and Andris Rogainis, Janis and Mary Pelekis - THANK YOU.

If you have yet not done so, please consider renewing your membership.

Coming up in the fall is the **Washington State Sister Cities Conference**. It will be in Lakewood on November 4-5th. This is a great opportunity for networking - meeting people from other WA Sister City organizations and finding out more about their sister cities and the activities they sponsor. Please let the board know if you would like to attend - the conference is open to all.

We hope to see many of you at the picnic!

Please renew your BSCA membership!

We appreciate all of you who have promptly sent in your dues. Thank you! Dues for fiscal year March 1, 2016- Feb. 28, 2017 are still **\$30 individual or \$50 family**.

Your check to BSCA mailed to: Inta Gotelli, 18911 SE 44th Way, Issaquah, WA 98027



and added strength to him and his success.”

It was the start of Mayor Tien's second term, and they will now have to hold an open election for the general public to vote on the next mayor within the next three months. His wife is receiving support to take over as mayor.

BSCA Receives SCI Award

We knew that our playground project with the Liepaja Special school was special.. Sister Cities International recognizes outstanding work done by sister city organizations - the awards presented at a special dinner during the annual conferences - this year in Washington, DC. - and one of these - **the Youth and Education award** will be presented to us.

Actually, this is the second time that SCI has recognized our cooperation with the Liepaja Special School - the first was back in 2002 soon after Ann and Bruce Knofel returned from their visit to Liepaja. The first teacher exchange was back in 1998 when Kaiva Zimante visited here.

We documented the progress of our playground project in past newsletters - from the initial decision in 2009 to use the memorial funds received for Ann Knofel for the playground through the years of additional fundraising and progress reports. It took several years - but we are pleased with what has been accomplished. And pleased that our efforts have been recognized at SCI.

Yao entry among 10 best

We were pleased to be notified that the Yao entry to the **Young Artist's Showcase** was selected among the 10 best international entries - our congratulations to **Tatsuya Sumitomo**.

Yao has participated for many years - their entries have often been among the best - and last year it was the grand prize winner.

You can see all the entries on the SCI website:

<http://www.sister-cities.org/news/sister-cities-international-announces-2016-young-artists-and-authors-showcase-winners>

Hulien Mayor Tien Remembered

We are saddened that the mayor of Hualien, Zi Xuan Tian, passed away recently. He continued to serve as mayor while fighting liver cancer. We met his wife, Hui Mei Chang, when she visited Bellevue in July 2013 to celebrate 30 years of affiliation and to “awaken” the new Fu Dogs, a gift from Hualien, at City Hall.

Councilmember, Conrad Lee, in his condolences to his wife says: “I first met Mayor Tien when he was newly elected Mayor of Hualien. I will always remember his trademark items with his very own personalized caricature. Of course, we all were impressed with his capable wife on his side. Undoubtedly, you were a great support



Mitsuko Hashiguchi 1921-2016 *Rest in peace Mitzie*

A charter member of the Bellevue Sister Cities Association, Mitzie was an active member until age and declining health caught up with her. During all those many years at one time or other she held most offices - among them that of historian, keeping track of events in the many photo albums. And it was she, along with Florence Metcalf and Billie Franklin, who made sure there were refreshments at our meetings.

Mitzie's family were true Bellevue pioneers - working the strawberry fields that used to be what Bellevue was known for. Even though she and her family, along with so many Japanese-Americans spent WWII years in internment camps, they returned to Bellevue, never losing their commitment to this community. Besides BSCA, she volunteered for many other organizations including the Bellevue Historical Society.

Her contributions were recognized by the City of Bellevue and she was also awarded the Community Bridge Builder Award at a Best of Bellevue event.

Please see the March-April 2015 newsletter for more. <http://www.bellevuesistercities.org/wp->

Summer Student Exchange 2016

These days of Facebook, Skype and other social media, once students are selected, both here and in our sister cities, they promptly start exchanging information - they no longer have to wait to get off the plane to meet their counterparts. This summer exchanges will be to Yao, Hualien and Kladno.

The **Yao committee**, as they have done each summer, invited **Christian Wordsworth** to meet with them prior to heading off on his travels. Over lunch or miso soup and sushi at Florence Metcalf's he met several BSCA members, told them about himself and family, and they gave him pointers on life in Japan and answered his questions. Christian (with glasses) left for Yao June 25th and will return, along with **Maiko Kurata**, the exchange student from Yao, on July 24th. Maiko will be staying with Chirstians' family and return home Aug. 20th.



The two exchange students from **Kladno - David Bendl and Ondrey (Andy) Kopecky** arrived on Sunday June 12th and were met by **Kate Robertson** and family. They will be hosted by Kate's family and will return home, along with Kate, on July 7th. Kate will be hosted by their families until her return home on August 1st. Kate in the middle along with her sisters).



Since their arrival they all have been having great fun - they spent some time exploring Seattle - Pike Place Market, the Aquarium, the Waterfront, the EMP, the Space Needle, and a Mariner's game as well. They have taken a few short overnight trips with Kate's family to the Olympic Rainforest along with Forks and La Push and spent four days in the San Juan islands on Lopez, visiting the beaches and spits and looking at local art.

And off to **Hualien is Caterina Cattaneo** - she leaves on July 1st for Taipei where she will be met by **Ruizhi (Reagie) GU** and her family at the airport and head on to Hualien. Caterina, along with Reagie, will be back in Bellevue on July 30th. Caterina and family will make sure Reagie enjoys her stay in our area before returning home on August 27th.



Rosie Bodien memorial scholarship award

Rosie Bodien, as a second generation Czech-American, was very much interested in genealogy. She founded the Czech-Slovak Interest group for the Eastside Genealogical Society and was very active making frequent visits the Czech Republic visiting old and newly found friends and relatives.

She first joined BSCA after arranging for a Czech tenor to perform at one of our meetings, and enjoyed meeting our exchange students to Kladno, sometimes inviting them to tell of their experiences at the genealogy group meetings. It is not a surprise then, that the group decided to give a scholarship in her name to this summer's exchange student to Kladno - Kate Robertson.

Kate shares with us: *The meeting with Marjorie was great, I learned a lot about Rosie Loss Bodien, who the scholarship was given in honor of and her legacy of ambassadorship and strong connection to her Czech heritage. I was recognized as an Outstanding Goodwill Ambassador for Czech Culture & Education and also was provided with some early insight about Czech culture. The Western Fraternal Life Lodge Seattle #181 which Marjorie is a member of showed me some Czech and Slovak folk art and we discussed the importance of young people (like me, Daniel, and Ondrej) sharing and learning about one another's cultures.*

We thank Marjorie and the genealogy group for this support of our summer student exchange.

Celebrate the Best of Czech Cinema!

Czech That Film returns to Seattle with seven new films celebrating the best of Czech cinema and running the gamut of filmmaking styles: award-winning drama (The Way Out, Home Care), gripping crime thriller (Gangster Ka), live-action puppetry (The Little Man), comedy that is both screwball (Chasing Fifty) and wryly ironic (Schmitke), and a newly remastered sci-fi classic (1961's Invention for Destruction).

Now in its fifth year, Czech That Film is the largest Czech cultural event in the United States, reaching 18 major US and Canadian cities in 2016. This year's festival features

Program

Fri July 8

7:00 | Reception at 6:00 | **THE WAY OUT**

Sat July 9

2:30 | **THE LITTLE MAN**

4:30 | **HOME CARE**

6:30 | **SCHMITKE**

8:30 | **GANGSTER KA**

Sun July 10

2:30 | **INVENTION FOR DESTRUCTION**

4:30 | **CHASING FIFTY**

6:30 | **THE WAY OUT**



Liepaja has a new outdoor basketball court

Earlier this month, Liepaja native and NBA Knicks player Kristaps Porziņģis, presented his native city a newly built outdoor basketball court. Liepaja City Council representatives, young Latvian basketball players and around 300 fans participated in the opening. Poziņģis had approached the Liepaja City Council with an application to create an outdoor basketball court as a gift to Liepaja, the funding of the project to be covered by the Poziņģis Family Foundation.

The basketball court, built to NBA specifications, is next to the football stadium on the shoreline park, and will complement the existing sports and recreational infrastructure - outdoor exercise equipment and street gymnastics area.

This area is also popular with cyclists, Nordic walking and jogging enthusiasts as well as a favorite place for a seaside walk .