



Membership Meeting *Wednesday, November 9, 2016* Bellevue City Hall—7:30pm

Exploring Europe by Bicycle and more *Gregg Schrader and Abigail Westbrook*

Gregg and Abigail have birthdays only a few days apart and this year they decided to celebrate them in Paris...

They started by meeting Behrooz Emam (we heard him talk about his experiences bicycling in Europe last year) and his wife in Luxembourg and doing a bit of bicycling with them. On to Paris where they stayed with a French couple via Airbnb and celebrated both birthdays with dinners and music performances – and did some more bicycling. Next on to meet up with friends from Kladno - City Manager Zdeněk Slepíčka and his wife and also with Marketa Tepřikova for dinner in Prague. The finale was 3 days in Stockholm exploring the city on bicycles they rented. They will share the high points of their trip with us – don't miss this meeting!



Holiday Luncheon– Sunday, December 4, 2016 **Tam o'Shanter Golf and Country Club**

We will again meet for our annual Sunday luncheon at the Tam o'Shanter Golf and Country Club. We have enjoyed this venue the last two years – the friendly holiday atmosphere and the good food. It is the best attended of our events and a good time to bring along some of your friends. We will have more information to you by the end of the month – in the meantime – *mark your calendars!*

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

PLEASE NOTE the MEETING IS ON WEDNESDAY

On our usual Tuesday evening we'll all be watching the outcome of the election... and hopefully we will be somewhat recovered by the next evening. Gregg and Abigail returned from their European visit - which included time spent in Kladno - and will be sharing some of their experiences.

Our Holiday Luncheon will be on Sunday, December 4th to give us plenty of time for more shopping and partying and leave us free to watch the Seahawks, too... more in the mail soon.

Some of us were looking forward to attending this year's Washington State Sister Cities meeting but looks like the timing was off... the meeting cancelled. We were contacted to let us know that this year's 'Peace Prize' - awarded to one of WA sister cities for a special project - was to be ours... and the suggestion has been made to present it to us at the Holiday Lunch... The award is for our Ann Knofel memorial playground at the Liepaja Special School - a second award for this project.

And yes, I had mentioned that at the November meeting we would be hearing from some of our Liepaja members - and Zaiga Phillips will indeed be telling us not only about Liepaja but also about the many other projects she has been - and still is - involved in in Latvia... but at a future meeting - she's in Latvia and won't be back in time...

Hope to see many of you at the meeting!

Hualien Elects New Mayor



A by-election was held this summer to fill the opening left when the former Hualien Mayor Tien Chih-hsuan died of lung cancer on May 29. This election was closely watched, the first since the new president, Tsai Ing-wen took office in May - her party represented by the former mayor's widow, Chang Mei-hui. The election went to Wei Jiaxian nominated by the opposing party..

Jiaxian Wei comes from one of the top ten political families in Taiwan. He has served as Hualien county councilman for three terms.

Eureka Lim's sister, Jade and her daughter Kaylee were in Hualien for the election, seen above with the new mayor and his wife.

Our congratulations to Mayor Wei. We look forward to meeting him and his wife next spring during our delegation visit to Hualien.

Update - Delegation visit to Hualien and Yao May 2017

The delegation visit is slowly coming together. Eureka Lim, Helen Cattaneo and Bill Bockman are in contact with our sister cities and the Bellevue City Council to plan the activities for this visit.



Proposed 2017 Asia delegation visit:

- May 4th - depart SEA
- May 5th - arrive Taipei
- May 5-9 visit Taipei and Hualien
- May 10th - depart Taipei for Osaka
- May 10-12 visit Yao
- May 13th - return home via Tokyo

Helen Cattaneo will be coordinating the delegation. She needs input from those of you who are planning on participating - please let her know at helen@cattaneo.us

1. if you are interested in going - if maybe - let her know anyway to keep you in the loop
2. travel arrangements - group fares are a thing of the past but some of you might still wish to be on the same flights - the Hualien to Yao (Taipei to Osaka) would be the same for all
3. any pre or post trips you would be interested in taking as a group - one suggestion was a bike trip along the Shimanami Kaido that Bill Bockman took during his stay in Japan

Vaira Pekekis Christopher celebrates her 80th! And we meet up with a past exchange student

Actually, it was Vaira's daughter and son who decided this event was to be celebrated in style with a gathering of relatives and friends for dinner at the Latvian Center. Vaira is one of the original Liepaja committee members and continues to support BSCA along with her support of the Washington State Latvian community events and the Baltic Studies program at the University of Washington. She travels often to Latvia and has joined every delegation visit to Liepaja - pictured in 2013 during our stop in Jurmala on our way to Liepaja.



For this event, Vaira's brother, Janis Pelekis, came out of retirement to be in charge of the dinner. Janis, along with his wife Mary, provided BSCA with Latvian themed Holiday dinners in years past. Their daughters helped out with our dinners then and Jana was helping again.

Both Jana (Liepaja 1999) and her sister Vija (Liepaja 2001) participated in our summer student exchange. These days Jana lives in Oakland, CA, near Lake Merritt, with her husband Dan and works with children

with Autism. Jana maintains contact with Lasma, her Liepaja counterpart that summer. Lasma and her husband visited Jana and Dan in Oakland a few years ago.

Vija lives in Haines, AK, where she works in a preschool. Vija maintains a large, beautiful garden. Jana and Mary visited Vija in September and found her canning cases and cases of freshly caught salmon. Vija is an avid hiker.

Janis and Mary spend much time in Riga these days, and also keep in contact with Lasma, who lives near them in Riga with her husband, Kaspars, and son, Augusts. They both have great careers and a wonderful apartment.



BSCA Summer Student Exchange Please let interested people know—Applications for 2017 Available!



One more summer and again students who will take with them memories of life in each other's homes and countries. We hope this summer's students, as many before them, will continue the friendships into many more visits each way.

This long standing program is our most important contribution to international friendship—the first exchange with Yao dating back to 1977! And it is now time to begin looking ahead to next summer. Most of our applicants hear about this program from past exchange students, friends or family members or from BSCA members such as you. Do let your family and friends with teenagers at home know of this unique opportunity.

Our exchange is a two part program: we match each selected student with a student selected by our Sister City counterparts and the two spend much of the summer together - half here and half in the Sister City. It also has become very much a family centered program - not only is the selected student involved, but so is the whole family.

Flyer attached and applications should be available on our website www.bellevuesistercities.org.

2017 Young Artists and Authors Showcase Theme: *We're Going Places*

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. It offers a way to showcase their imagination, creativity, and passion for world peace, - 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.

This program is a great opportunity to reach out to the community and engage local English and art teachers, and reach a student audience that may not already be included in sister city programming. While we seldom have had entries from our own city, our sister cities have participated - Yao every year often their entry among the finalists - the pictured Yao entry was one of the Grand Prize winners in 2015. The finalists' works embark on a year-long tour hosted by local sister city programs on a monthly basis.



Ten finalists are selected—five US and 5 international. One U.S. artist and one international artist will be the Grand Prize Winners - and awarded \$1,000. Anyone for helping with a local competition?

Center for Czech Education and Culture

Jaroslav Svěcený & Julie Svěcená

PONCHO Concert Hall
at Cornish College of the Arts
Sunday, October 30, 2016

The CCEC is thrilled to welcome **Jaroslav Svěcený & Julie Svěcená** back to Seattle for a very special performance on **Sunday, October 30** at PONCHO Concert Hall! Jaroslav and Julie will be in the US for a brief tour, and Seattle is fortunate to be their last stop on the West Coast before a performance in New York.

Vedem

Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall
Benaroya Hall
November 6, 2016

A Holocaust oratorio by award-winning American composer **Lori Laitman** and librettist **David Mason**, with the celebrated Northwest Boychoir joined by soloists Ross Hauck, tenor, and Karen Early Evans, soprano.

Commissioned and premiered by Music Of Remembrance (MOR) in 2010, *Vedem* tells the remarkable story of a group of teenage boys in the Terezín concentration camp and the secret magazine they created every week for two years under the noses of their Nazi captors. Miraculously, many of the magazine's articles, poetry and illustrations have survived because one of the boys managed to bury nearly 800 manuscript pages and return to recover them after the camp's liberation.

More at: <http://www.ccec-seattle.org/>

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Washington State Latvian Association

LBVS

Have you renewed 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