



The Bridge

Winter 2021

Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.

Friendship & Understanding since 1993 – Roseburg, Oregon & Kuki City, Japan

The President's Corner



Dear Members and Friends,

Happy New Year! 2021 is the Year of the OX! The 2nd animal sign of the Chinese Zodiac, the Ox, denotes hard work, positivity and honesty that is to be manifested in all of us during the coming 12 months!

Although 2020 was certainly a test of patience and disappointment for trips that had to be cancelled, I think most of us have survived the Covid-19 so far, and are all looking forward to getting our vaccines and seeing businesses open up again. I have seen a lot of creative ideas demonstrated by many in the local area to try to cope with safe distancing and to keep us safe. One which most of us have had to learn is navigating "Virtual" sessions in lieu of in-person meetings and Roseburg Sister Cities is no exception! In the interest of safety, we **held our Annual Meeting in November 'Virtually'** and since the weather has been cold, we are holding our Board Meetings 'Virtually' as well. We are making it work, but I think most of us will be happy to be able to meet in person again!

We are still 'ON HOLD' as far as Exchange trips are concerned and we are currently planning that the next Adult Delegation visit from Kuki City will be in 2022 – unless the pandemic conditions improve dramatically in the next month or two. It is a remote possibility for the Middle School Exchange to happen in 2021, but I haven't given up completely yet. We will be monitoring the situation in Japan, and especially whether the Summer Olympics will be held in Tokyo in July 2021, as an indication of status of the pandemic. We will keep the Roseburg Middle School Team informed as more information is available. At this point we are still 'on hold'.

Thank you to those of you who have shown your support of Roseburg Sister Cities by renewing your membership for 2021! In addition, we just received a generous donation from Beverly Paulson, and appreciate her support of our Exchange programs and Sister Cities friendship and understanding! Thank you Beverly! If you have not yet paid your 2021 dues, please consider doing so, as we begin planning for more activities in the future, once it is safe to gather again!

Please enjoy the interesting articles in this newsletter and plan to join in the Friendship Garden activities planned for this Spring!

Janet Johnston, President
Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.
Janetsmail77@gmail.com, 541-430-2885



- Calendar of Events -

* Please check email updates.

February 11, 5:00 pm,
March 11, 5:00 pm,
April 8, 5:00 pm, and
May 13, 5:00 pm RSC Board Meetings via Zoom.

April 21, 4:30 pm: RSC Book Club meets.
(See article, pg 5.)

April 30, 9:00 – 5:00 pm:
RSC Garden Homage Day:
Join us in honoring our RSC Garden! (See article, pg 9.)





RSC Annual Meeting: November 1, 2020

This was the first time RSC had met via the Zoom online platform. 20 members attended. We had a surprise guest: Sanae Kawamoto, our long time interpreter and planner in Japan! Board members were elected & reports heard.



Roseburg Sister Cities Board of Directors:

President: Janet Johnston
Vice President: Steve Erickson
Secretary: Debbie Fields
Treasurer: Kevin Carson

Board Members:

Emily Brandt, Charlotte Carter, Joanie Chambers, Karsha Owen, Jo Ann Pico, Akiyo Riggs, Paul Whitworth, & Maureen Williams

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New Board Members



Charlotte Carter - has lived in Roseburg for 52 years. She was married to John for 45 years when he died in 2015, after a long illness, changing her life forever. They have two children and two grandchildren (both in college).

Charlotte worked full-time for the VA Medical Center in Roseburg for 37 ½ years as a Personnel Management Specialist for the Education and Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Programs. She served as the Regional Manager for the Pacific Northwest for both training and EEO and several National programs. She also taught at UCC for over 10 years and was Vice President of a Training Consultant Group, becoming an International Trainer presenting programs in British Columbia, Canada.

Charlotte's hobbies besides traveling are chocolate candy making, gardening, and reading. She loved her trip to Japan in 2019, hosted by Hiroko Kojima and her son Ryo and his family.

- *Welcome, Charlotte!*



Emily Brandt - was part of the 2019 Delegation, staying with the Hirasawa family. She is an active part of our community in Roseburg, joining i.e. Engineering's design team as a landscape designer, environmental

specialist, and planner in June 2014 after earning a Master of Landscape Architecture from Mississippi State University. As a designer, Emily strives to create a sense of place in every built project both large and small.

When she is not working, Emily collects design inspiration from nature and the built environment while hiking and traveling with her husband, Jason, and their terrier, Zissou.

Besides her dedication to Roseburg Sister Cities, Emily is involved and connected to the local community by volunteering for several other organizations and as the executive board chairperson for the Umpqua Valley Arts Association.

- *Welcome, Emily!*





Dr. Honda Remembered

Dr. Seiroku Honda is once again being honored in Japan on the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Meiji Jingu.

Dr. Honda was born in Shobu in 1866 and became known as the Father of Japanese Forestry or the Father of Japanese Parks. After graduating from the Agricultural Department at Tokyo University, he studied forestry in Germany. He then returned to Tokyo as an assistant professor, later as professor, and became Japan's first forester.

Dr. Honda served as President of the Japanese Garden Association and the Japan Scenic Beauty Association, as well as designing several public parks and writing over 300 books, mostly on forestry.



Retired forester, Kevin Carson, with his host, the late Eiji Arai, in 2015 at the Dr. Honda Memorial exhibit in the Shobu City Hall.

The Meiji Shrine in Tokyo was founded November 1, 1920 to commemorate the recent passing of Emperor Meiji. The construction of the Shrine forest surrounding the structures was headed by Dr. Honda. Walking through the forest today, it seems as if it is a virgin forest but it was well planned and planted. The goal of becoming a self-sustaining forest that would last forever appears to have been met at the site that started out as just a field.

Many of you have probably seen that the Shobu Branch of Kuki City Hall has a bust of Dr. Honda near its entrance or have visited the exhibit dedicated to him on the fifth floor.

This pamphlet was included in the Kuki City newsletter in both Japanese and English thanks to Kenichiro Hirasawa:

[Dr. Seiroku Honda Pamphlet \(back side, English\) \(PDF: 717KB\)](#)

Q. Who is Seiroku Honda?

A. Honda was involved in designing hundreds of parks across Japan. He is often called the **"Father of Japanese Parks."**

Seiroku Honda was born on July 2, 1866 (Keio 2) to the Othhara family in what is now present day Kuki City, Shobu in Saitama Prefecture (known as Musashino-kuni, Saitama-gun, Kawarai-mura in the Edo era). He was the first person in Japan to hold a Ph.D. in forestry and helped lay the foundation for landscaping and forestry for the nation. Honda also played active roles in various fields such as industrial promotion.

Honda was involved in designing hundreds of parks across Japan including Hibiya Park, the Meiji Shrine forest in Tokyo and Omiya Park in Saitama.



Father of Japanese Parks. Dr. Seiroku Honda

Seiroku Honda Memorial (Exhibit)
Hours : Sunday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Closed : Saturdays, National Holidays, New Years holidays
Location : Saitama Prefecture, Kuki, Shobusho, Nishori 38
Kuki City Shobu General Branch Office, 5th floor
Phone : 0480-85-1111

Birthplace: Kuki City, Saitama Prefecture
Located in the eastern part of Saitama Prefecture, Kuki City is rich in natural scenery. Every July, a lively festival scene filled with taiko drums, flutes and various music fills the air as four sided floats covered with 500 lit paper lanterns are pushed down the streets. This colorful, grand summer event is called the Temoisama but is more commonly known as the Kuki City Lantern Festival.

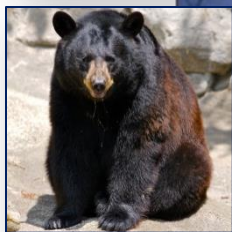
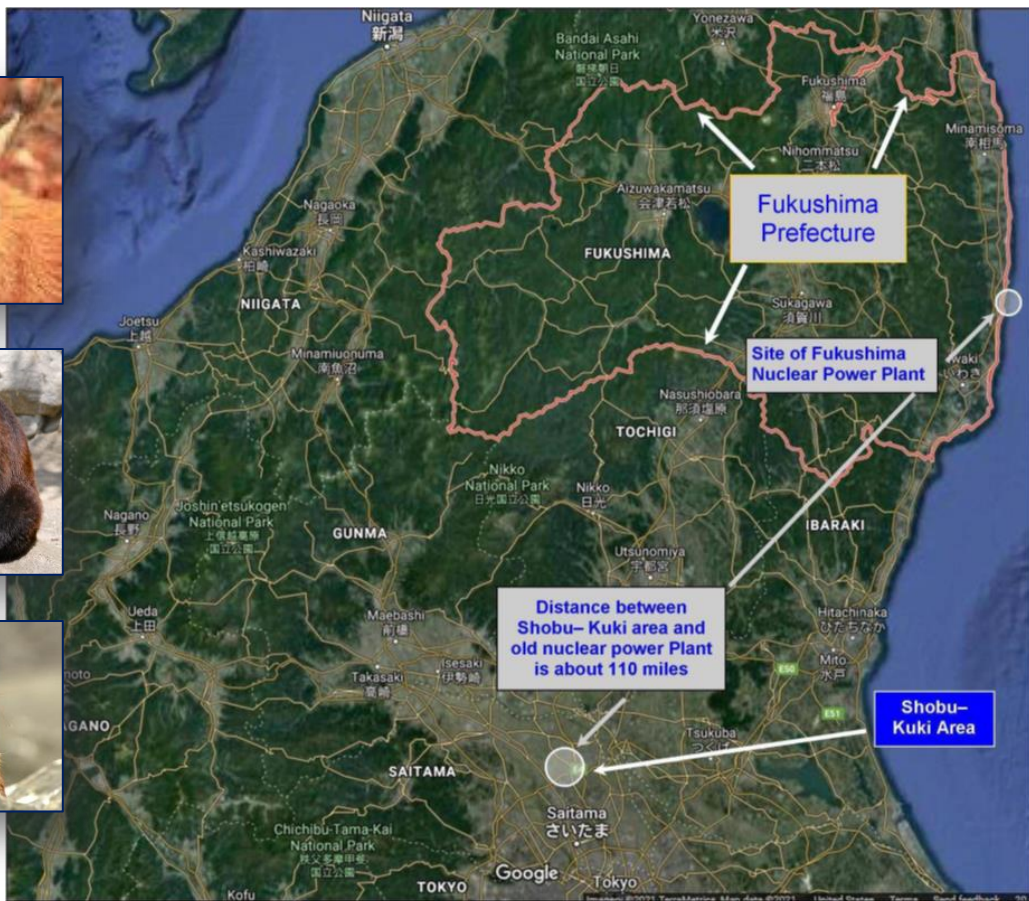


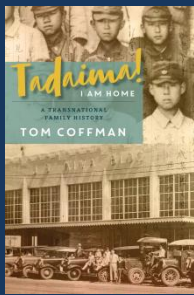
Animal Life Thriving Around Fukushima

During the past 25 years, several of our Roseburg Sister Cities member delegations have visited the Fukushima area of northern Honshu. It is a beautiful mountainous area with many rivers and lakes.

The world was saddened when the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster struck the region. But things are starting to improve! Nearly 10 years after the nuclear accident in Fukushima, Japan (March 11, 2011), wildlife populations are expanding inside the area near the plant that people had to move away from. Many species, including wild boar, Japanese Hare, macaques, pheasant, fox and the Tanuki (raccoon dog – a relative of the fox) are now more populous in various areas of the contaminated region near the plant. The free-roaming menagerie in Fukushima also includes the masked palm civet, weasel, sika deer and the black bear.

Submitted by David Johnston





RSC Book Club

The Book Club met January 20th, socially distancing on the beautiful deck at the Soder's home, to discuss "Tadainna! I Am Home" by Tom Coffman. We all liked the book, and were pleased to meet again. It unearths the five-generation history of a family that migrated from Hiroshima to Honolulu, but instead of just settling there, the Miwa family kept 'one foot in Japan, the other in America' and attempted to build lives in both countries. In the process, they faced the challenges of internment, a civilian prisoner exchange, the atomic bomb and the loss of their holdings on both sides of the Pacific during World War II and after.

Our next book is "Wabi Sabi, Japanese Wisdom For A Perfectly Imperfect Life" by Beth Kempton. This is a whole new way of looking at the world inspired by centuries old Japanese wisdom. *Wabi sabi* sees the beauty in imperfection, appreciates simplicity, and accepts that change is inevitable.



Next meeting: **April 21st at 4:30 pm**, location to be announced.

** Anyone is welcome; please contact us to verify the time and place.*

- Janet Johnston, 541-430-2885

Recipe: Gyoza (Dumplings)

Prep Time: 5 mins Cook Time: 15 mins Servings: 10 pcs



- 3/4 cup chopped Cabbage
 - 1/4 cup chopped Onion
 - Salt
 - 1/2 cup Pork or Tofu
 - 1/2 tsp Ginger
 - 1/2 tsp Garlic
 - 1/2 tsp Dashi
 - 2 tsp Soy sauce
 - 1 pack gyoza or wonton wrappers
 - 1 tsp Sesame oil
 - 1 tsp Katakuriko (potato starch) (2 tsp for Tofu or egg)
- When you fry:**
- Oil
 - 1/3 cup Water
 - 1 tsp Katakuriko

Chie Tip 1: Put salt on cabbage and onion; wait a few minutes and squeeze the water from the vegetable.

Mix ingredients, place spoonful on wrapper, fold and crimp to close.

Chie Tip 2: Grill the gyoza on well heated pan, and wait 3-4 minutes and pour in water mixed Katakuriko, put the lid on and wait until the water is gone. Corn starch works if you can't get katakuriko (potato starch).

Thanks to Chie Furukawa who shared this with us at our 2017 Japanese Cooking Class .



Student News: Our Visits to Kawagoe

Kawagoe is a Japanese city northwest of Tokyo. An Edo-period castle town, it's known for its old clay warehouses and merchant homes, called Kurazukuri. Traditional Japanese sweet shops line Meiji-era Candy Alley. Kita-in, a major Buddhist temple, features remnants of the former Edo Castle. On the temple grounds are the Gohyaku Rakan group of more than 500 stone statues of Buddha's disciples.



The middle school group has visited Kawagoe on two occasions while I have been the director.

2014 – On the way to Kawagoe, we first stopped at the Nakajima Indigo Company (established 1837) and learned how to do tie-dye. Each of us received a handkerchief. We then had different examples to look at while we created a pattern and bound the fabric with rubber bands. Then we went to the room where we dunked our fabric into the large open pits of indigo dye. I was so relieved that no one fell in. While our creations dried, we got to look in the museum / store. The clothing was incredible. Seeing the long history of the company was fascinating. The current indigo master, Daigo Nijima, was very pleasant and enthusiastic. <https://deeperjapan.com/masters/dai-go-nijima-aizome-master>

We boarded our bus and arrived in Kawagoe just in time for lunch. We ate at a restaurant that was located in an old sake making building. Koedo Kurari is a collection of stores including the restaurant. The lunch was really good and the woman that took care of us spoke very good English, so that was helpful to all the students.

<https://www.machikawa.co.jp/meal>



After lunch, we spent time roaming the streets of the old city which is made up of small stores and you quickly realize this is a perfect place for souvenirs. It is also a fun place to try different Japanese goods, especially candy. Candy Alley is one of the streets you must wander down. *Below* is the Sugi Bee Garden flavored honey store.

<http://www.0038.co.jp>



The city of Kawagoe is located about twenty miles southwest of Kuki. Kawagoe is an old town known for its old look. I was told that the old city has all the utilities underground so that those streets can be used for movies that are set in the past, specifically the Edo period. The Toki no Kane tower marks the center of the old city. Our group used this location as a meeting point.



We left Kawagoe and headed back to Kuki and spent the evening at the Lantern Festival. It was a long but wonderful day. The weather was overcast and a good temperature. It did rain later on at the Lantern Festival.

2018 - We again visited Kawagoe in 2018. This time the day was extremely hot. Walking around the old town with so much pavement and little shade was less enjoyable than in 2014. We also had much less time to explore.

Our time in the old town started at the Blue Bird Studio in the Kawagoe Cultural Center. Here we were allowed to choose a glass of our choice and then we learned how to etch the glass. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the project, and it was a great souvenir to bring home. We all were required to wear a mask the entire time because of the glass dust.

<http://kawagoe-taiken.com>



After our glass etching, we walked to lunch. As usual, we were taken care of exceptionally well. The lunch was fabulous. The restaurant was Sasagawa, just around the corner from the Toki no Kane tower. We were all seated in a larger room together, and there was air conditioning!

<https://kawagoe-sasagawa.com/>



After lunch, the students were able to venture around the local shops. It was a very quiet and it seemed our kids were the only people in town.

Instead of shopping, Allison and I opted for a cool beverage at a great spot called Kawagoe Art Cafe Elevato, located in an interesting old building with friendly staff:

<https://kawagoeartkafeerebato.gorp.jp/>

Kawagoe is really a fun place to explore with so many things to experience and being surrounded by amazing old architecture. I took loads of photos of buildings. There are stores filled with handmade goods and all kinds of foods. I really enjoyed visiting both times and would love to return!



Submitted by Paul Whitworth,
Director Roseburg Kuki
Student Exchange,
rbgkuki@gmail.com

Holiday Correspondence

Receiving Cards



Just a few of the beautiful New Year's & holiday cards delightfully received by members!



Cards include famous scenes that often have gold leaf, snow, Santa, Snoopy, or other characters added for this festive season! Some are even intricately cut 'pop-up' scenes!



Calendars' Journey

Two of the 2021 Douglas County Cancer Services fundraising calendars, 'Roseburg firefighters and friends: Paws for the Cause Edition' were sent by RSC Board member, Akiyo Riggs, to Kuki City Fire Bureau and also to Chieko Ohashi for their friendship towards us here.



With calendars in hand, Akiyo contacted our Roseburg Fire Department and asked if the personnel could sign the page they were on.



Roseburg Fire Station administrator, Ms. Amy Rice, handled the signings. Akiyo sent both calendars to Kuki City, attention to Mr. Naohiro Murata (who was here as chaperone with the 2019 student exchange and who works for Citizen Relations). He delivered both calendars! Success!



RSC FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

CURRENT BOTANICAL EVENTS AT THE GARDEN:

Grass from seed sown in late Fall, is filling in nicely. The moss that is beginning to spread on both sides of the path is combining with the grass to create an inviting, lush, green carpet. The backsides of fern fronds are dotted with spores. Fragrance from the blooming Sweet Box (*Sarcococca* species) is amazing. Another fragrance soon to be wafting across the garden will be from the bright pink flower buds of the *Daphne*.

Flower buds of the Daylilies are beginning to swell and the Pink Camellia continues to bloom, dropping its' bright petals on the garden floor. The *Bergenia* has tight flower buds hidden behind its leaves, with stems ready to bolt. On the creekside of the garden, the snowberry still offers its beautiful white berries; the Pacific Ninebark and Indian Plum are beginning to show growth of their tiny leaves.

DEVELOPING A GARDEN MATURATION STRATEGY

While normally at this time of year, we plan a spring work day for the Friendship Garden, because of the developing carpet feature of moss and grass, we have decided not to spread bark mulch nuggets. Instead, we plan to allow the more natural and truly Asian look and feel of the moss and grass carpet to create the visual foundation for the botanicals that we have planted and that are filling the space beautifully.



GARDEN RECENTLY FEATURED IN THE DOWNTOWN PASSPORT PROGRAM!

A recent program introduced newcomers to downtown businesses included their visiting the Roseburg Sister City Friendship Garden!

The Roseburg Town Center, Blue Zones Project, and Gathering Grounds partnered to offer a passport program to increase community awareness and support of downtown businesses. The program ran from 10/1 – 12/31 and will possibly be reinstated in this new year, with a different set of businesses and features to be visited. Each business card

“passport” included 8 spots for stamp collection. Once a patron collected all 8, they were entered into a prize drawing. The eight stamps collected on this first passport were from Brix, Gathering Grounds, The Kitchen Sink, North Forty Brewing Company, Old Soul Pizza, True, and Umpqua Sweets & Treats. The final stamp was a “well being” stamp involving an activity. Participants were asked to take a selfie at the Roseburg Sister City Friendship Garden as their final requirement before turning in their passport and entering the drawing.

Steve Erickson, scerickson48@gmail.com

JOIN US!

RSC FRIENDSHIP GARDEN HOMAGE DAY

Join us to honor the garden on Arbor Day,

Friday April 30th, 9:00 – 5:00

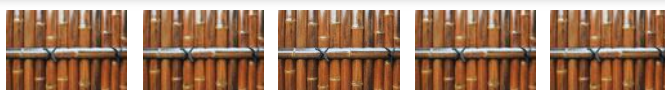
at which time we are inviting the community to reacquaint themselves with the garden or introduce themselves to its beauty for the first time.

In keeping with this event, we are planning to place small signs by each plant that educate the visitor as to what kind of plant they are viewing. We are also revising the original Friendship Garden brochure with a map and index of the plants, as well as a brief history of the garden itself.

KUDOS

TO OUR VOLUNTEERS, MEMBERS & TRACY POPE

What you see in the garden today could not have been possible without the enthusiastic response of our membership and community members who volunteered their time under the excellent supervision of Tracy Pope, city horticulturist.





Thank you to this
Roseburg Sister Cities'
Supporting Business

Cascade Self Storage
For a RSC Storage Unit for
another year!



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1910 NE Diamond Lake Blvd.,
Roseburg, OR 97470
cascaderoseburg@hcamgmt.com
cascadestorageroseburg.com

Please Remember to Renew RSC Membership for 2021!

- ___ New Membership
- ___ Renew Membership (Tax Deductible 501-C3)
- ___ Family \$30
- ___ Single \$20
- ___ Student: \$5 (with School ID)

Make checks payable to: Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.

Mail to: P.O. Box 1643, Roseburg, OR 97470

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Check below your areas of special interest:

- Friendship Garden** (behind Douglas Co. Library)
___ Committee, ___ Helper
- 2022 June Delegation Hosting:** Help w/visitor events, dinners, sightseeing, etc. (usually 4-7 days in June)
___ Serve as Host Family, ___ Helper
- ___ **Travel as a 2023 RSC Delegate to Japan**
(usually 9-12 days)
- Special Committees:**
 - ___ Future Board Member
 - ___ Membership
 - ___ Speaker Bureau member
 - ___ Displays-help do
 - ___ Plan activities
 - ___ Japanese Language Interpreter
 - ___ Japanese Film Festival
 - ___ Annual Dinner helper
 - ___ Newsletter Helper
 - ___ Historian/Scrapbook

2019 RSC Adult Delegation memories,
when delegates sang karaoke:
L to R: Marliene Swanson,
Janet Johnston, Jeneen Hartley, Suzie
Armstrong, Kevin Carson, & Emily Brandt.

