



The Bridge

April 2023

Friendship & Understanding since 1993

Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.

Debbie Fields, Editor
Roseburg, Oregon & Kuki City, Japan

President's Corner

Dear Roseburg Sister Cities Members and Friends,



Happy Spring!! Spring is the time for new beginnings and I am very excited to announce that we are finally moving forward and resuming our Delegation Exchange visits

with Kuki City, Japan this year! I was looking back at our records and realized that the last Delegation from Japan came to Roseburg 5 years ago, in 2018! Debbie Fields is our Delegation Chairman for 2023 and she has been busy getting plans made for the Delegation visit. The Kuki Roseburg Association requested that we resume our exchanges with a shorter visit this year and no bus trip, so they will be arriving in Eugene the afternoon of June 1st and will be flying home on June 7th. Due to their flight departure of 5:15 a.m., we have arranged for a Eugene hotel for them on the night of June 6th. Debbie could still use some help with the events during their visit, so I hope you will give her a hand and volunteer to join in the planning activities. Debbie's contact information is included in this newsletter.

I am in the process of lining up Host Families for the Delegates - we are expecting 10 Delegates. This is a great way to make new friends and share our beautiful area with our visitors! Also, if you are thinking of joining a future Delegation to Japan, this is a great way to begin. That way, when you arrive in Japan, you will see some familiar faces! We will have two Planning sessions to help the Host Families prepare for hosting.

Due to the restrictions on gathering during the Covid pandemic, we have been very limited on our activities and membership dues have been down significantly, which leaves us with a very limited budget for hosting. We are looking for your support so we can provide the Delegates with a great visit! Will you help by:

- (1) paying your 2023 Dues - \$30 per household
- (2) making a donation toward cost of the Delegates' meals, activities & transportation
- (3) joining us for the Welcome Dinner on June 2nd and/or the Farewell Brunch on June 6th

I look forward to seeing you in June during the Delegation visit!

With best regards,
Janet Johnston, President
541-430-2885
roseburgsistercities2@gmail.com



Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc..

P.O. Box 1643

Roseburg, OR 97470

www.roseburgsistercities.org

www.facebook.com/RoseburgSisterCities

Board of Directors Officers

President: Janet Johnston **Vice President:** Steve Erickson
Secretary: Maureen Williams **Treasurer:** Debbie Fields

Board Members

Charlotte Carter, Joanie Chambers, JoAnn Pico, Akiyo Riggs, Rosemarie Wess, David Stribling, and Wesley Rea



Calendar of Events

- April 7 - 9:00 Garden work party
- April 25 - 3:00 Delegation Planning Committee meets at ReMax Integrity
- April 25 - 5:00 Board Meeting at ReMax Integrity
- April 28 - 9:00 Garden work party
- May 12 - 9:00 Garden work party
- May 19-20 - 9:00 to 5:00 Yard Sale at Debbie Fields'
- May 23 - 3:00 Delegation Planning Committee meets at ReMax Integrity
- May 23 - 5:00 Board Meeting at ReMax Integrity
- May 26 - 9:00 Garden work party
- Jun 1-7 - Japanese Delegation Visit
- June 20 - 5:30 Book Club meets at ReMax Integrity



Delegation Visit

The Roseburg Sister Cities Board of Directors is very excited to announce that our adult Delegate Exchange is finally restarting this year. June 1 - 7, 2023 are the dates that a group of delegates from Japan will be visiting us here in Roseburg. They have requested to start out small thus the shorter visit and there will not be a bus trip scheduled to show them the sights of Oregon. We are going to welcome the following ten delegates:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Mr. Kaoru Hirasawa | Ms. Kazumi Suzuki |
| Mr. Shoichi Yamada | Ms. Taki Ohara |
| Ms. Yoshiko Yamada | Mr. Yasunori Koyama |
| Mr. Koji Okazaki | Ms. Atsuko Shimizu |
| Mr. Soji Okamura | Ms. Sanae Kawamoto |

Their schedule is as follows:

They will arrive in Eugene on Thursday, June 1, arriving at Umpqua Community College at approximately 6:30 to 7:00 pm to be welcomed and picked up by their Host Families.

Friday June 2nd will be the traditional visit to the Friendship Garden, City Hall, City Police and Fire Station.

Later that evening is the Welcome Dinner to formally welcome the Delegates to Roseburg. It is planned for the Roseburg Country Club. Social hour is at 5:30 p.m. with dinner served at 6:00 p.m. An invitation will be sent out later with all the particulars but be sure to save the date!

Saturday and Sunday will be spent with their Host Families.

On Monday morning, the Delegation will visit Fir Grove School and eat lunch there. After lunch, the Delegation will continue to the Umpqua Valley Art Center where they will be treated to a wool felting workshop and view the art displays there.

Tuesday morning is the final day in Roseburg and we will celebrate with a Farewell Brunch in the Cheryl Ford Event Center at Winston Wildlife Safari. Brunch will commence at 11:00 with a potluck meal being served. We are asking that everyone join us and bring a brunch dish to share. Plates, utensils, coffee, tea, and water will be provided.



Garden Cleanup

The Friendship Garden, located right behind the Roseburg Library, is in need of a good spring clean-up especially in light of the Delegation coming to visit! We could certainly use helping hands to get it looking great for public viewing. Four dates have been scheduled for work parties, April 7th and 28th and May 12th and 26th. Start time is 9:00 am each of the days. Be sure to plan on bringing gloves and tools for your own use. There will also be wheelbarrows available for us to use. For more information and to volunteer, please contact Steve Erickson, Garden Chairperson at scerickson48@gmail.com. Looking forward to seeing you there!

New Board Members Welcomed

Wesley Rea is a fourth-grade teacher at Fir Grove School in Roseburg, Oregon. He is married with three children. He does origami with his students every year and frequently has his class finish 1,000 origami cranes for the county fair which has been featured in the News Review. He has been interested in Japan for years and is looking forward to working with Roseburg Sister



Cities.

David Stribling II is a proud 5th generation resident of Douglas County. He is married to his lovely wife Taryn and together they have six children, who have in turn blessed them with 15 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



David currently serves as the Regional Manager for RE/MAX Integrity. He has always been committed to making a positive impact in his community and has found an excellent way to do so

through the Sister City Program.

David's interest in the program was sparked when he hosted a foreign student, and his daughter visited Japan. He realized that this program could help foster understanding and respect between different cultures and enhance the community as a whole.



Yard Sale Scheduled

A yard sale to benefit the Roseburg Sister Cities organization has been scheduled for May 19- 20 weather permitting, at the home of Debbie Fields, 4132 Carnes Road in Green. The sale hours will be from 9 to 5. You all can help by starting your spring cleaning and donating unwanted items to the sale, donating time to the set-up, assisting at the sale, and coming out to shop! Contact Debbie Fields 541-643-7824 for more information and to help your organization.

Book Club

The Sister Cities Book Club continues to be actively reading books about Japan and the culture. The next meeting is June 20th at 5:30 p.m. at the ReMax Integrity Real Estate Office on Edenbower Blvd. At that time the club will be reviewing their current book "Touch" by Olaf Olafsson. Yes, you read that correctly, Olaf Olafsson. It appears that you will have to read the book to find out the rest of the story. All are welcome!



Thank you to this Roseburg
Sister Cities Supporting
Business:

**CASCADE SELF
STORAGE**

541-671-2343

**910 NE Diamond
Lake Blvd.**

Roseburg, OR, 97470

For donation of a RSC
Storage Unit for a year!

Remembering Alan Iwata



Alan Iwata, RSC member and son of long-time RSC member Barbara Iwata, passed away on Feb. 1, 2023, at the age of 59, due to complications from pneumonia.

From his obituary: Alan was born in Roseburg on March 24, 1963, and was a lifelong resident of the town he loved. He could not imagine living anywhere else. Some might know Alan from his days on the CB radio as the "Roseburg Indian" and others as "Big Al." He was a force of nature in a small package. He could always be found at the RHS football games, the Douglas County Fair, Graffiti Days, American Legion baseball games and the races, all of which he loved. In fact, he could be found anywhere people gathered. Whenever you were out with him, you could count on Alan to say hi to several friends giving a handshake, high five or hug along the way.

Alan was the son of Dr. Robert Iwata, and Yoko (Barbara) Iwata. He is survived by his sister, Pat Rinerson of Sedalia, Colorado, and brother, Bill Iwata of Lakewood Ranch, Florida.

A celebration of life for Alan was held on June 10, 2023, at 1 p.m. at the Stewart Park pavilion. If you would still like to make a donation in Alan's memory, please direct checks to: Roseburg High School Athletic Department, 400 W. Harvard Ave., Roseburg, OR 97470. In the memo line add that it is for the football program and in Alan's memory.

If you would like to see the many comments from friends and relatives as to just how much Alan was loved, visit the "Remembering Alan Iwata" facebook page.



Please Remember to Renew 2023 RSC Membership f!

- Renewing Membership
- New Membership
- \$30 per family
- Tax Deductible 501-C3

**Make checks payable to:
Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.
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

Delegation Hosting: Help w/visitor events, dinners, sightseeing, etc. (usually 7-10 days in June)
 Serve as Host Family Helper

Travel as a Future RSC Delegate to Japan _____

Special Committees:

- Future Board Member
- Membership
- Speaker Bureau member
- Displays
- Plan activities
- Japanese Language Interpreter
- Japanese Film Festival
- Annual Dinner Committee
- Newsletter Assistant
- Historian/Scrapbook





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[webpage at roseburgsistercities.org](http://roseburgsistercities.org)

- ***April 25th Friendship Garden clean-up***
- ***May 19-20 RSC Yard Sale***
- ***June 1-7 Delegation Visit!***