



The Bridge

Spring 2020

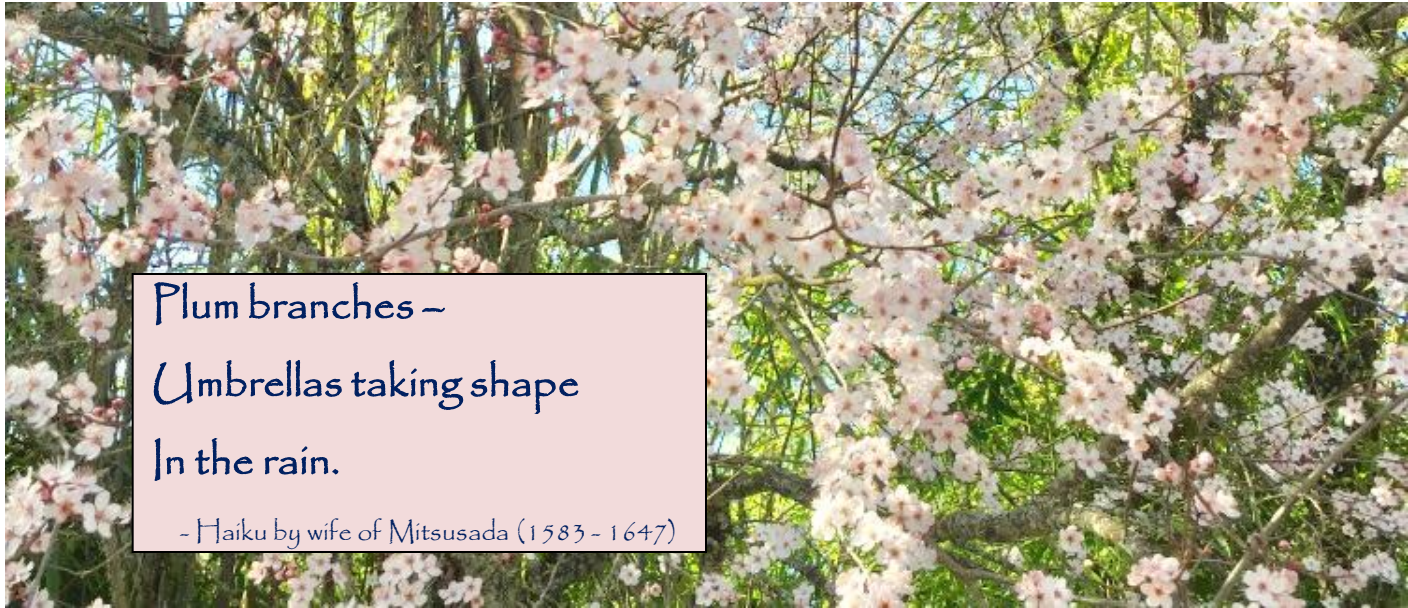
Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.

Friendship & Understanding since 1993

Roseburg, Oregon & Kuki City, Japan

Editor, Katherine Elisar

541-680-3614



Plum branches –
 Umbrellas taking shape
 In the rain.

- Haiku by wife of Mitsusada (1583 - 1647)



The President's Corner

Dear Friends,

During this time of the Coronavirus, we, just like you, I'm sure, are considering everything fluid. Many events and visits are being rescheduled and we look forward to the day when we may come together once again!

We were pleased that the Hiroshima Peace tree was planted at UCC before current events began to unfold. 26 Oregon communities planned to plant Hiroshima Trees in 2020 through a combined effort by Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Oregon Community Trees and One Sunny Day Initiative. Here in Roseburg, we have 2 other places for these trees: Odd Fellows Cemetery and Master Gardener Discovery Garden. RSC will notify members when a ceremony is planned.

May we use the legacy of the Peace Trees and their significant resilience as inspiration for each of us through this difficult world crisis.

Sincerely, *Thomas McGregor*
 President, Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.

- Calendar of Events -

**Please check email for any schedule updates.*

March 30th, 6:30 pm: Will be Rescheduled -
 RSC Student Exchange (See article, pg 6.)

April 8th, 2:00 pm: Will be Rescheduled -
 Hiroshima Peace Tree Ceremony at UCC.

April 13th, 5:00 pm: RSC Board Meeting at
 Phoenix School.

April 18th, at 6:30 pm: RSC Book Club at
 Berkshire Hathaway offices. (See article, pg 5.)

May 11th, 5:00 pm: RSC Board Meeting,
 Phoenix School.

May 15th, 9:00 – 12:00 pm: Friendship Garden
 Workday. (See article, pg 8.)

June 8th, 5:00 pm: RSC Board Meeting.

June 20th, 2:00 pm: Lewis Paulson Celebration
 of Life, Faith Lutheran Church, 820 West
 Kenwood St, Roseburg. (See obituary, pg 5.)



Roseburg Sister Cities

Board of Directors:

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Vice President: Janet Johnston
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JoAnn Pico
Nancy Pittman
Akiyo Riggs
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Message from the Roseburg Sister Cities President...

Dear Members and friends,

It is with a heavy heart I must carry forward news from this morning, February 27, 2020, from our friends in Kuki City. It has been decided to officially cancel the upcoming delegation planning to visit Roseburg this June.

Our friends reported the situation in Japan to be stable, but their government is taking strong measures to prevent a similar outbreak as found in neighboring China or South Korea. Kuki City Association President, Kaoru Hirasawa, shared in a message this morning, "This is not a decision that we have easily taken, but under these extraordinary circumstances, we feel it is the correct thing to do." He continued, "We know that some people are already working so hard to organize for our visit. We are very sorry and ask for your understanding."

Our organization shared our thoughts and understanding in a reply this afternoon. We requested them to keep us updated as necessary on activity in the Kuki community. It also was personally noted in my reply for our friends to, "take care and please eat lots of healthy Japanese food to stay strong!"

If you have any thoughts or concerns regarding the delegation, please reply to this email and we will route your needs to the appropriate board member or delegation coordinator. Our board of directors will review any related items at our March meeting in the coming weeks.

Stay healthy and take care,

Thomas McGregor
President, Roseburg Sister Cities

** This message was emailed to the RSC membership.*



Changing RSC Display cases at Roseburg City Hall



Let us share a 'window' into the Sister City showcases at Roseburg City Hall. Many items are replaced every three months using gifts from Kuki City while a few items are permanently displayed. RSC board member, Akiyo Riggs, plans the displays. Currently, the following items and gifts are being displayed:

#1. Historic Decorations (short display case):

- * 1st edition of the Roseburg Sister City and Kuki City Shobu Association Newsletters. Mayors were Mr. Junji Endo and Mrs. Jerry Kimmel.
- * The Handmade 'Rose and Shobu (which means iris)' ornaments that were in commemoration of the 1st Proclamation between Roseburg and Shobu town.
- * The new RSC Proclamation after the 2015 merge of Shobu into Kuki City. Mayors were Mr. Kenji Tanaka and Mr. Larry Rich who signed the proclamation.



Bridal Doll, in permanent display that was a gift of the Mayor of Shobu town,.

#2. Cultural Decorations (longer display case):

- * The 2020 Flower arrangement Calendar - gift from the Consular Office of Japan in Portland.
- * Traditional Japanese New Year Decorations:



Shime Kazari – Can you spot the plum blossom, crane, lobster or turtle shapes?

Shime Kazari: White rice straw, pine needles, plum blossom, crane, lobster, turtle, new year paper string. These symbolize longevity, good fortune and to rid the area of evil spirits. These are placed at the doorway, just like in the West where you put up a wreath for Christmas! In Japan this is a Shinto custom that you'll see as New Year's decoration. Nowadays, these are made in many different styles.

Kadomatsu: A set of bamboo shoots and pine decoration is traditionally placed at the entrance to serve as the temporary abode of Shinto Gods who come to visit the underworld to bless humans.

- Submitted by Akiyo Riggs



RSC Winter Outreach

Celebration of Literacy for Children



On February 22, 2020, RSC members and Japanese community helpers volunteered at the RSC booth where they helped Douglas County children write their names in both English and Japanese on white cotton Japanese headbands with the red sun on them. At the 2nd table, we folded

Japanese Origami Cranes (for wishing world peace) for an eventual 'Hiroshima Peace Tree Ceremony' at UCC.



Roseburg brothers, Boone & Steen Olson, here on either side of Akiyo Riggs, have gone to Japan three times!

RSC member, Bruce Chambers assisted students who were making headbands!



RSC Board Members, Debra Fields & Joanie Chambers offer assistance with students making headbands and stamping!



B.R.A.V.E. WORLD

(Building Respect and Value for Everyone) This is the platform of Marin Gray, Miss Oregon Outstanding Teen, who is a former Roseburg Kuki Student Exchange member. She recently promoted this platform at Jo Lane Middle School where 6th graders interacted with invited international community members to increase their understanding and value of cultural diversity in our community.



In the library from 11:45 to 12:30 RSC members joined, sharing Japanese toys, books, and information about the Roseburg Kuki Student Exchange Program. Also, we provided the students with the chopstick challenge of trying to pick up M&M's with chopsticks.

Nancy Pittman shares about the student exchange with students!



Martha Scott speaks at the conclusion of B.R.A.V.E. New World!



In the afternoon, all moved to the gym and the international community members had panel interviews about their cultures and experiences in coming to America.

Martha Scott gave a concluding speech. Jo Lane teacher, Ms. Holborow said, "We had so much fun! Thank you for coming. Martha was amazing and we appreciated listening to her wisdom."

RSC members have volunteered since 2017. Valued volunteers participating this year were Nancy Pittman, Maureen Williams, Fay Andrews, Akiyo Riggs, Martha Scott and Miyuki Clark.

- Submitted by Akiyo Riggs

Winter Outreach continued... Emperor's Birthday Celebration



RSC had four members and a guest from Japan attending his majesty, the Emperor of Japan's Birthday Reception in Portland, sponsored by the Japanese Consular General on Friday, February 7th from 2:00 – 4:00 pm at the Portland Hilton Hotel:

Board members, Steve Erikson and Akiyo Riggs, and Board Treasurer, Kevin Carson and his wife, Katherine Elisar. Coming with Akiyo Riggs was guest, Sarara Shirakawa, a recent Roseburg Rotary exchange student visiting for a short holiday.

Guests enjoyed meeting the Consular General and his wife, enjoying the plentiful sushi buffet, listening to the powerful Taiko Drumming, and special awards that were handed out. They were very proud that Kuki City had the best display highlighting their city's many strengths all on a well produced DVD!

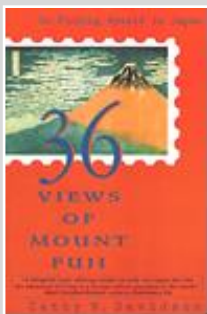


RSC Book Club News

The Sister Cities book club's last meeting was in January. We discussed "Walking the Kiso Road" by William Scott Wilson. Those of us at the meeting had all been in the general area described in the book, and therefore could relate to the author's descriptions.

Our next meeting will be on April 18th.

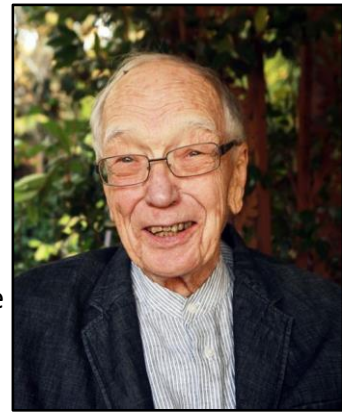
Our book will be "36 Views of Mt. Fuji" by Cathy Davidson. It promises to be a good read of a Westerner's views of Japan.



We meet, generally, on Wednesday, every third month, at Berkshire Hathaway offices on Mulholland, at 6:30 pm. Anyone interested in Japan is welcome, whether you have read the book or not.

* Submitted by Una Honsheid

Lewis M. Paulson 1925 ~ 2020



Former President of Roseburg Sister Cities, Lewis Paulson passed away in Roseburg on February 10, 2020 at the age of 94. Lewis was born in 1925 in Nye, Wisconsin into a family of Norwegian and Swedish immigrants.

Throughout his life, Lewis believed in contributing to his community. He actively participated as a member of Faith Lutheran Church, as a board member of Douglas County Senior Services, with Mercy Foundation, Roseburg Community Concert Association, Roseburg Concert Chorale, Rotary International, and with our Roseburg Sister Cities international exchange program with Shobu (now Kuki City), Japan.

Lewis believed in building understanding and friendship with other countries and, along with his wife Beverly and their family, hosted students and teachers from Australia, Guatemala, Norway, Russia and Sweden as well as hosting visiting dignitaries from Japan.

His many contributions to Roseburg Sister Cities over this past quarter-century include; serving on the RSC Board of Directors, hosting delegates from Japan in his home, as the President of Roseburg Sister Cities in 2001, and as an RSC international Delegate to Japan. Lewis performed all of those duties with his usual intelligence, grace and charm. He will certainly be missed.

Survivors include his wife Beverly; son John Paulson of Roseburg; daughter Sarah Paulson Nevue and her husband Bo Nevue of Portland, plus many grandchildren, nieces, nephews and families. *A Celebration of Life service and reception will be held at Faith Lutheran Church, 820 West Kenwood Street, Roseburg, OR on Saturday, June 20th at 2:00 pm. Remembrances may be made to Faith Lutheran Church or to the Mercy Foundation.*

RSC Student NEWS

As many may guess, we are requesting a delay of our visit, originally planned for July, now for 2021. But to update you on those students who had been selected and our continued fundraising, please read:

After narrowing down the applicant list to students to interview, a panel of adults and former Kuki Team members struggled to choose just seven new members. The process of choosing new members is quite agonizing as you really want everyone to be able to get this great exchange experience.

It was decided to bump our group up to twenty-one members in order to attempt to get closer to the original idea of adding ten new members each year. The wonderful thing about our new group is that they represent many schools / communities from the greater Roseburg area: Glide Middle School, Joseph Lane Middle School, Fremont Middle School, Umpqua Valley Christian School, Lincoln Middle School (Oakland), and there are some home schooled students as well.

Congratulations to new members; Hailey Gordon, Zoe Vickers, Rebecca Ngigi, Olivia Stephens, Maddie Ballas, Amber Todd, and Jack Pace. Two of those students had older siblings in our group in the past. These new members add to the group that hosted in 2019. That group is made up of: ReeAnn Abel, Eston Barney, Will Crouch, Anjel Csernak, Noah Eichenbusch, Peyton Fisher, Hannah Groth, Salina Herrera, Paul Kercher, Katelyn Lane, Josiah Long, Macy Mornarich, Max Polson, and Tanner Richey.

Our trip costs a lot of money, so our group has already started fundraising efforts. We had a successful Valentine's Day dance at JoLane. This project also gave our new members a chance to spend time with the existing group. Bonding socially is an important portion of this program. The group has also received nice donations from the community of Glide as well as from Seven Feathers. We have a few other fundraising ideas in the works. In addition, we will have our annual flower basket sale starting at the end of April. You can purchase a coupon from one of our members for \$20. The coupon gets exchanged for a hanging basket and then that student gets \$5 towards the cost of the trip. *Members can check their email for any updates.*

Our group is always busy! Students can take this extra time to learn language and culture to better prepare themselves to be successful. We will stay in touch via email and phone! If anyone wants to help out in any way, let me know.

Submitted by Paul Whitworth,
rsbgkuki@gmail.com, 541.672.6303



STUDENT IDEAS & WEBSITES

to Strengthen Cultural Awareness:

1. **Fold Origami Cranes** for the eventual UCC Hiroshima Peace Tree Ceremony. We need to make 1,000 folding cranes. (But why **1,000 cranes**? Search, "Sadako and Thousand Paper Cranes"!) Use link to lead you through steps, but stop at last 2: don't open & bend one side as neck: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=KfnyopxdJXQ>
2. Find out about **traditions of a Japanese meal, cook, and try your skill with chopsticks!** <https://web-japan.org/kidsweb/cook/intro/intro01.html>
3. **Easy Japanese language lessons** for students: <http://www.erin.ne.jp/en/>
4. For more ideas for students on the **Japanese culture**: <https://web-japan.org/kidsweb/index.html>



Interest in Anime Leads to Visit

Walking through the historical Washinomiya Shrine in Kuki city last October, many delegates were surprised to see anime characters painted on ema, small wooden plaques, just outside the temple, and then, since returning to Roseburg, we heard that Kuki city recently had a contest for six new manhole covers which will have brightly colored anime characters on them! Our curiosity was peaked!



Luckily, we have a recent RSC member, Skyler Abel, we could learn more about anime from with his interest in this trend; his reasons in applying to the delegation on this last trip centered around wanting to visit the places he was familiar with from anime.



It wasn't that Skyler was always curious about anime, in fact he brushed off his Roseburg friends many a time who recommended he watch an anime movie. Then two years ago he agreed to watch a show: he was hooked, and as he said, "it was the music that kept him around!". His favorite is 'K-on', about high school girls who start a band. This inspired him to buy a drum set and he began teaching himself how to play the songs in the show. His passion lead him to find a drum teacher and eventually, he searched in Japanese on Google and found music books on the show with music written for drums that he quickly ordered.

Luckily, Skyler's host family was familiar with several anime and took him to a video rental store where they found several of his favorites. These were WONDERFUL he said, because they didn't have subtitles that would be distracting. He said the music is like 'pop-rock', with quickly played melodies.

Skyler's advice for finding out more is to, "watch it and see for yourself!" He says there are so many genres out there depending on your interests: crime/detective, comedy, children's themes... a little bit of everything! He recommends



watching, 'A Silent Voice' on Netflix to see what we think. There are many misconceptions about anime but he went on to say, "that just because it is hand drawn and animated, it isn't just for kids!" *Find out in our next newsletter how Skyler*

stayed after our delegation visit to find Toyosato, the town and school, a museum now, where his favorite anime took place.



Thank you to these Roseburg Sister Cities' Supporting Businesses:

Cascade Self Storage
For a RSC Storage Unit for 1 year!



541.671.2343
1910 NE Diamond Lake Blvd.,
Roseburg, OR 97470
cascaderoseburg@hcamgmt.com
www.cascadestorageroseburg.com

Seven Feathers Casino Resort
For their Support of the RSC
Student Exchange Program!



I-5 Exit 99
Canyonville, OR 97417

(800)548-8461
Sevenfeathers.com



Former Kuki Roseburg Association President's Life Celebrated



The Arai family had a small family funeral due to the coronavirus. *(The Japanese government has asked citizens not to have any big events, meetings, or gatherings.)* Roseburg Sister Cities arranged for flowers at the funeral on Monday, March 30 and Tuesday, March 31.

Options to send your own condolences:

- Sending a letter - if you don't mind going to the post office in these times for international postage, here is the Arai's home address:

Hamako Arai (Eiji's wife)
 5102 Shobu Shobucho
 Kuki-shi, Saitama
 346-0106, Japan

- Email: please send your email to Sanae Kawamoto, sanae@englishtime-sanae.com She will translate these and send them on to the family.



*"I experienced him to be a man who possessed dignity, warmth, and joy. His devotion to the Sister Cities' Program will always have a lasting impression on us."
 ~ RSC Member*



Our good friend in Japan, Eiji Arai, has passed away. Arai-san was the president of the Kuki Roseburg Association from 2008 to 2018. He passed away on March 25, 2020 at the age of 83. He was suffering from kidney disease and had been receiving dialysis treatments in a hospital for quite a long time.

Arai-san joined the Delegations to Roseburg many times and he and his wife, Hamako, hosted Roseburg Delegates almost every year since the Exchanges began in 1994. His favorite activities in Douglas County included meeting the mayor, police and fire chiefs, as well as wearing a cowboy hat and riding a horse.



Those from Roseburg Sister Cities who stayed with him and his wife, Hamako, enjoyed his family and their beautiful home around a garden courtyard. RSC treasurer, Kevin Carson, fondly recalls how Arai-san purchased a large 20 foot bowling pin from a bowling alley that closed, and they watched as his son used their electric business' boom truck to lift it in place as a sign for their business! All this was done with father and son communicating and installing it just a few feet away from an intricate family shrine he had built.

Many Roseburg Delegates remember BBQs that Eiji-san and Hamako-san hosted at their home and shared their large inflatable Ghost and Ghouls to celebrate at Halloween, as well as making traditional Mochi, oysters from Noheji and delicious Japanese food. Singing karaoke and sharing his magic shows were his well known pastimes with delegates, who appreciated the joy these brought to all audiences.

Arai-san took guests in Japan to the Buddhist temple where he attended, showing his families' graves, and his beautiful donated incense burner as well as a large bronze statue. During this visit he shared prayers for the victims of the tsunami and arranged for his guests to have tea with Fuse, a visiting priest from Kyoto.

Arai-San is survived by his wife, Hamako, daughter, Kiyomi, son, Takayuki and his wife, Masami, and their two children, Koto and Siun.



Please Remember to Renew RSC Membership for 2020!

- 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
- **Delegation Hosting:** Help w/visitor events, dinners, sightseeing, etc. (usually 4-7 days in June)
 Serve as Host Family, Helper
- **Travel as a 2022 RSC Delegate to Japan**
(usually October, 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

Join us for the

RSC FRIENDSHIP GARDEN SPRING WORK DAY!

Friday, May 15th

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

**South side of
Roseburg Public Library**

We have high hopes that we can join together and that perhaps Tracy Pope, city horticulturist, will be there; it is possible that the 'Friends of the Library' will also be there to help....and there may even be pizza made available to the group!

If interested & to be sure of any rescheduling, please contact Steve Erickson, scerickson48@gmail.com

