



The Bridge

December 2017

Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc. – Friendship & Understanding since 1993 – Roseburg, Oregon & Kuki-city, Japan

The President's Corner



Greetings,

Winter is upon us and I'd like to invite you to cozy up with our newsletter because there are lots of stories here to share from the activities with Roseburg Sister Cities. You can also learn how to plan for the upcoming fun this spring and summer.

The middle school students are off to Kuki-city this summer! Prospective parents of delegates should contact Paul Whitworth ASAP! This is a chance for so many wonderful memories which can stay with your child for a lifetime. Please reach out and learn more today!

Also, our friends from Japan will be here this June so don't be shy and join the team! Hosts, event organizers, and just those who wish to lend a hand are always needed. Everyone in our city can be among the proud team who welcomes the delegates from Kuki-city.

It has been amazing to hear all the tales from the delegation abroad this past October and those who hosted the middle schoolers last summer. I want to personally give all involved a big thank you! When we all take the time to help maintain the bonds

of friendship and understanding with our neighbor across the Pacific, it truly adds more energy to so many hearts in both cities.

Remember you can continue to connect directly with us at www.roseburgsistercities.org and always 'Like' us on Facebook and virtually stay in touch there.

Please also don't forget to send in your annual dues and keep your membership active!

Sincerely,

Thomas McGregor
President, Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.



Membership Drive

Roseburg Sister Cities is sponsoring our annual membership drive and are seeking new members. If you have friends, neighbors, co-workers that may be interested in joining our RSC family, please encourage them to join or let any of the Board know and we can contact them. We want to share the fun and opportunities of our organization and all it stands for with everyone. To pay membership dues or for more information please contact Kevin Carson kdcarson54@gmail.com or 541-680-9640.



Calendar of Events

- January** Japanese cooking class at Phoenix School. Date TBD
- January** Board Meeting at Berkshire Hathaway. Date TBD
- May** Yard Sale fund-raiser. Date To Be Determined
- June 7 - 15** Japanese Adult Delegation visits Roseburg
- July** Middle School Delegation to travel to Japan

<p>Debbie Fields 541-643-7824</p>	<p>Newsletter Co-Editors</p>	<p>Nancy Pittman 541-677-7382</p>
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Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.
P.O. Box 1643
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www.facebook.com/RoseburgSisterCities

Board of Directors

President: Thomas McGregor **Vice President:** Janet Johnston
Secretary: Debbie Fields **Treasurer:** Kevin Carson

Other Board Members

Andrea Gray, Connie Kloha, Nancy Pittman, Akiyo Riggs, Paul Whitworth, Chie Furukawa, Steve Erickson, JoAnn Pico

Annual Dinner 2017

The RSC Annual Dinner was held Sunday November 5th in the Linus Oakes Community Room. Martha Scott, a member who lives there, graciously arranged for us to use the room free of charge. Room set-up was very nicely done by the staff under direction of Linus Oakes Director Mike Ryan.



Co-Chairs for the dinner were Nancy Pittman and Marliene Swanson. Decorating Committee included Chairman, Joanie Chambers, with helpers Yuki Taylor and Chie Furukawa. They used gourds and small pumpkins from Jon and Jeannie Burpee's garden along with green boughs with red berries, dried corn cobs, fall leaves and flowers. Decorated Mason jars with twinkling lights were placed within the centerpieces. Treasurer, Kevin Carson, received 2018 membership dues at the Welcome table while Debbie Fields provided each person with a name tag and a door prize raffle ticket. Kevin had also made the table agendas.

Members brought a variety of delicious potluck dishes and dinner started about 4:30 pm with about 40 people attending.



Vice President, Janet Johnston, conducted the meeting in President Thomas McGregor's absence. The election of executive board members was held with the following members re-elected for a two-year term: Kevin Carson, Andrea Gray, Janet Johnston, Connie, Kloha, Akiyo Riggs, and Paul Whitworth. The executive board also needed one more person for a one-year term. Jo Ann Pico volunteered for that position and was voted in by the membership.



For the program, Paul Whitworth, board member and leader for the summer Roseburg Kuki Student Exchange, had a slide presentation showing the various activities of the Japanese and American students during the July visitation. A number of students this year were Glide residents and some of the functions were held there.

After the middle school presentation, the adult members of the October trip to Japan told about their enjoyable experiences.



The raffle ticket drawing was then held with several winners who selected a gift for themselves.

It was announced that member Thelma Sayers was celebrating her 96th birthday and a card was given to her and everyone sang "Happy Birthday."

Jon Burpee led the Shime and HD Honscheid led the Kompai. Many helped cleanup after the successful meeting,



New Board Member



Jo Ann Pico is our newest Board Member chosen by unanimous voting of our membership at the RSC Annual Dinner. Jo Ann says she became interested in RSC after finding out about it from board member Nancy Pittman. She said she is interested in Japan and thinks that "we do good things" in our organization. In Jo Ann's own words: In 2005 my husband Don and I were looking for rental property in the state of Washington. On our return trip to California, we stopped for one night to visit a friend in Roseburg. By the next morning a real estate agent was showing us rental property and said there was a home for sale that the owner had listed for a long time but would not let anyone in to see it. Today he is having an open house. Would you like to see it? We said yes and after minutes, we decided to purchase it.

The amazing thing is we only knew one person in Roseburg and were not familiar with the town other than that. We rented the house for five years before we arranged to move up here. We have lived here since June 2012.

The people here are friendly and there are many opportunities to be involved in city activities. I am currently a member of American University women, League of Women Voters, Umpqua Vietnam Veterans Association, and Hospice. We have not been disappointed in our decision to live in Roseburg. The people are amazing and we are very happy to be in this wonderful city.

Welcome Jo Ann to the Roseburg Sister Cities board of directors!

Your 2018 Board at Work

Your RSC board of directors, met Monday, November 20, 2017. Returning board member Kevin Carson was unable to attend as he recently had a second eye procedure. New board member, JoAnn Pico, attended her first meeting. Officers were elected and will remain the same. Thomas McGregor is President; Janet Johnston, Vice President; Debbie Fields, Secretary; and Kevin Carson, Treasurer.

Among items discussed was the next visitation by Kuki members to Roseburg in June and the planning trip to the north coast by Debbie Fields and Janet Johnston, Planning Team co-chairs, in preparation for the traditional bus trip. Dates will soon be announced.

Our Friendship Garden, currently located behind the Douglas County Library building has been a continuing discussion regarding if and where to potentially move the garden. The board would like to have something to show to the delegation that will be arriving in June.

Board Member, Andrea Gray, mentioned her daughter will again spearhead the "Brave New World" program where students meet and hear people from different country backgrounds tell how they adapted to new ways in the US. Andrea requested that RSC again have a presence at that event with a booth and a Japanese representative. Chie Furukawa will coordinate our participation.

Fund-raising is an ongoing topic in the meetings. The Board will again have a yard sale in May 2018 and would appreciate members saving items to donate to it. Name tags are also available for purchase.

Paul Whitworth is already preparing for the middle school students to travel to Japan next summer. He stated there will be school dances February 17th and June 1st, 2018 to help students earn money for the trip.

Board Members along with city officials have been invited to the Portland Consulate December 8th to help celebrate the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan. Several members will be attending including Connie Kloha, Paul Whitworth and wife Allison, Chie Furukawa and husband Arthur Chaput, Janet Johnston, and possibly David Johnston and Steve Erickson. In addition, the Mayor, City Manager, Police Chief, and Fire Chief will be in attendance.



Longtime Member Celebrates Birthday

On Sunday, November 5th our longtime member and supporter of Roseburg Sister Cities, Thelma Sayers, celebrated her 97th birthday. Those of us in attendance at the annual dinner at Linus Oakes, were able to recognize her day of celebration, sing "Happy Birthday" to her and present her with a birthday card signed by RSC members in attendance.



Thelma first got involved in Roseburg Sister Cities several years ago and helped with the various money-making projects for the celebration of the Obon Festival. She contacted people to work and always helped with clean up. She then went on to serve on the board of directors and took three trips to Shobu with the delegations going there.

We are so pleased that Thelma continues to support our organization and attends our annual dinners.



Lunch for Visiting Students

On July 25, 2017 RSC adult members provided lunch to middle school students under the leadership of Paul Whitworth, plus visiting Japanese students and chaperones. There were about 60 people in all including volunteer helpers. The event was held at the Rod and Gun Club and the caretakers who had donated the use of the pavilion, had the pavilion ready for the gathering.

The tables were covered with red and white checked tablecloths furnished by Maureen Williams. The menu consisted of beef tacos with assorted toppings, refried beans, chips and rice. Water and lemonade were provided along with cookies and the remaining birthday cake from the welcome dinner for dessert.



Co-Chairs Nancy Pittman and Marliene Swanson with volunteer helpers Debbie Fields, Joanie and Bruce Chambers, Maureen Williams, Janet Johnston, Kate Droscher, Judy Liu, Steve Erickson, and Chie Furukawa tended to the event. Cookies were provided by Mary Armes, Maureen Williams, Joanie Chambers, Geri Behan, and Janet Johnston.

After the lunch the students continued on with their planned program which included an afternoon of swimming at Umpqua Community College. The event was a success thanks to all those who helped.



Roseburg Kuki Student Exchange Hosting 2017

The idea of traveling to Japan is what attracts many students to our group, but they usually find that hosting students from Japan is equally exciting. Showing off our community and the environment in which will live, reminds local students what a great place we live in. This year, 2017 was our turn to host. Students arrived from Japan on Monday, July 24th, and their departure date of Wednesday, August 2nd came far too quickly. We hosted twenty students and four adult chaperones from Kuki-city. Our group was a couple short, at eighteen, so two families doubled up on delegates to make it work. The idea behind hosting is to show the visiting students the best things about our area, allow plenty of social time, but without making it too hectic and tiring.

We began with a casual welcome party. It was a potluck BBQ held in an old barn at the Couron's home in Dixonville. This was the first time our group did not have a formal welcome dinner. I think the result was perfect. Kids were able to relax, interact and have fun.

The group spent two days visiting places in Roseburg. We had a tour of the Douglas County Forest Products mill, lunch at the picnic area at the Roseburg Rod and Gun club hosted by Roseburg Sister Cities members, a swim in the pool at UCC, and ending with the Music on the Half Shell. The second day in Roseburg was spent visiting City Hall and the Safety Center, including rescue dog demonstrations, lunch and bowling at Ten Down, and a circuit of Wildlife Safari with a stop at the elephant barn.



With a third of our group coming from Glide this year, we decided to have a Glide day. Glide High School helped us out with morning activities. The group baked cookies in the Home Economics room, played basketball in the gym, and took rides around Glide Loop in various muscle cars. It was great to have several guys come out with their beautiful cars to give rides. Lunch was served on the North Umpqua Trail, followed by a short hike.



The afternoon was spent at the Davis' house. Students got to fish in their pond. The girls were the most prolific at catching fish. There were also several yard games going on as well, such as badminton and giant Jenga. The group then headed up Little River to the Bucich home for a swim in a wonderful spot on the river and a BBQ dinner.

Florence was the location of our coast day. We had time to see the town followed by lunch at Mo's. After lunch, we played a round of miniature golf, and then took a dune buggy ride on the dunes thanks to Sandland Adventures. The late afternoon was spent at

the north jetty beach. With the chilly temperature and strong wind, time at the beach was limited.



A regular activity for the group is always a trip to Grants Pass for a river trip and lunch provided by Hellgate Excursions. Everyone enjoyed getting a bit wet, going fast, and seeing some wildlife. Families did various other activities after this as there was plenty of time left in the day.

The final day included hiking to Fall Creek and Susan Creek Falls. The afternoon was spent having fun at Fromdahl Meadow. Tim and Tedy very generously hosted us for the third time. There was time to play sports, go in the creek to cool off, eat, visit, and fill out evaluation forms. We ended the evening with speeches and students sharing their thoughts about the overall visit.



Many community members made our hosting a success. I would like to share my appreciation and say thank you to all of them.

Our group ideally has twenty students participating. We currently have eleven. I would love to add nine new students prior to our trip to Japan in July 2018. If you know of any outstanding middle school students, have them contact me, Paul Whitworth, 541-672-6303 or whitworths@charter.net.

~~submitted by Paul Whitworth~~





Delegation Planning in Full Swing

Delegation Co-Chairs, Debbie Fields and Janet Johnston just returned from a scouting trip to the northern Oregon coast since our bus trip will be centered in that area. We have some special activities in mind for the trip that we know will make this visit memorable. Schedule has not been finalized at this time but we will soon have a full plan for the festivities when our friends from Japan are with us.

Dates have been set. The delegation will arrive on June 7th and fly home on June 15th. The schedule will include the traditional Welcome Dinner, City Day, and Farewell gathering along with home stays and possibly another activity or two.

As always, we try to make the visit as fun-filled but still as affordable as possible for the delegation. The board is looking for ways to make this happen. We need your help. We are in need of sponsors for the delegates' meals for the Welcome Dinner, bus snacks, gift bags, as well as other potential activities.

Besides sponsors, we also need volunteers to help with many tasks. Some of those tasks include translating information and schedules, sewing gift bags, soliciting gifts for the bags, name tags, snacks for the bus trip, providing food for the Farewell gathering, and participating in a painting activity that will be scheduled in the spring among potential other needs. Of course, host families are also needed for our visitors.

We would also like to thank those that have already stepped up to assist in this group effort and encourage the rest of you to get involved to make the Japanese visit truly memorable for each and every delegate.

Please contact us with your ideas, help, and donations to make this a wonderful visit for the delegates. Also, if you have any other fund-raising suggestions please contact Debbie Fields 541-643-7824 debfields54@gmail.com or Janet Johnston 541-430-2885 janetsmail77@gmail.com.



This and That

We are pleased to announce that Chie Furukawa has taken a job with the Japanese Chamber of Commerce in Portland starting in January. Congratulations are in order! With this development, Chie has indicated that she still wants to help with the organization in any way she can. Hopefully, we will talk her into giving us one more cooking class in January.

Sadly, her leaving us also leaves a vacancy on the board again. If anyone would be interested in serving on the board of directors contact Thomas McGregor, tmcgregor@roseburgphoenix.com.



Kurisumasu Keki Japanese Christmas Cake

In Japan, Christmas cakes are traditionally eaten on Christmas Eve. They are simply a sponge cake, frosted with whipped cream, often decorated with strawberries, and usually topped with Christmas chocolates or other seasonal fruits, and a Santa Claus decoration.



Ingredients

Sponge:

50g flour or scant 1/2 cup
50g sugar or 1/4 cup
1/4 tsp. baking powder
4 eggs
2 T. milk
2 T. honey

Cream topping:

500ml heavy cream or
approx. 2 cups
4 T. sugar
20 fresh strawberries

How to Prepare

First preheat the oven to 350° and butter an 8-inch round cake tin.

This recipe uses a double boiler technique to ensure the cake has wonderful lightness, so fill up a bowl with warm water and set aside. Crack eggs into another bowl. Whisk (preferably with an electric mixer) the eggs, gradually adding sugar until combined and dissolved. Place mixture over the warm water and continue to whisk thoroughly, until the mixture becomes almost white.

Warm milk in microwave for 10-15 seconds. Stir in honey and whisk into egg mixture. At this point, sift flour and baking powder into the mixing bowl with the egg mixture, making sure to hold the sieve far above the bowl. Gently mix with a wooden spoon. When all elements are mixed, it is ready to bake.

Pop the cake mixture into the buttered cake tin and level out the mixture using a spatula. Bake for 25 minutes.

After 25 minutes, test that the cake is done by sticking a knife in. If there's no residue, it's all good. Allow to cool on a wire rack.

Add the heavy cream and sugar to a mixing bowl. Whip the cream vigorously until the mixture thickens to stiff peaks. At this point, separate the cream mixture into two bowls, half and half. One will be for the filling and the other for covering the cake.

Cut half the strawberries into thin slices and add to one of the bowls of cream mixture. Return to the cooled sponge cake and cut it in half horizontally. Spread the strawberry and cream mixture on top of one of the sponge halves, then place the other on top like a glorious Christmas sandwich.

Use the other half of the cream to spread around the rest of the cake. Use a spatula to create beautiful peaks on top of your cake, or a pastry bag if available. Decorate with rest of the strawberries.

Once decorated with the cream and strawberries, feel free to decorate your cake with candles, sweets, or chocolates. These decorations range from the simple to the extravagant.



Nineteen Delegates Visit Japan

A long-standing promise was kept by Roseburg Mayor Larry Rich when along with eighteen other Roseburg delegates, he visited our sister city, Kuki-city, Japan from October 19 - 28. The promise was made to Kuki Mayor Kenji



Tanaka that he would visit once he had retired from his position at Roseburg High School. This last June Rich retired, so over the summer he joined his wife and the other delegates led by RSC Vice-President and delegation leader, Janet Johnston, in preparation for the trip. Delegates learned about customs and traditions and had language lessons taught by Joseph Lane Middle School teacher, Eric Olsen.

Armed with basic phrases and customs, the delegates touched down in Tokyo on October 20th. Besides Mayor Rich, this year's delegation included Roseburg Fire Chief Gregg Timm.

Friday, October 20 – Day 1: Kuki-city representatives enthusiastically welcomed the group at the Narita Airport and we were welcomed in Kuki-city by our host families. Besides this being the first trip to Kuki-city for the Mayor and his wife and Roseburg's Fire Chief, five others were experiencing their first visit as well. The remaining delegates had previously hosted and visited. But it did not take long for even the first-time delegates to feel at home and well cared for.

Saturday, October 21 - Day 2: A formal welcome dinner and reception was held. Here, the Kuki - Roseburg Association President Mr. Arai welcomed everyone. Delegation leader Janet Johnston addressed the group thanking everyone for their hospitality. Mayor Kenji Tanaka welcomed Mayor Rich and fellow delegates. Mayor Rich followed, thanking Mayor Tanaka and lightheartedly reminding him of his promise now kept!

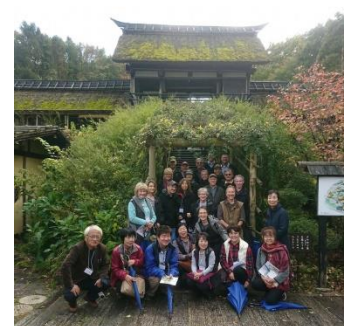


Kuki-city Mayor Kenji Tanaka welcoming the 2017 Delegation.

Even a strong typhoon traveling through Tokyo and north could not dampen the delegates enthusiasm as they toured temples, museums and parks all around the area with their host families.

Days 4, 5 and 6: A three-day bus trip was planned to the location of the 1998 Olympics, in the Nagano region at the Jigokudani Hot Springs Wild Snow Monkey Park. Because of the typhoon, a main road washed out and the hosts had to quickly organize other activities and destinations.

Lunch was enjoyed by everyone at Kayabuki-no-sato, a historical village where 12-inch-thick thatched roof houses are tucked together on the hillside. An open courtyard contained an antique fire truck and an area for demonstrations. Mayor Rich, Fire Chief Timm and others including retired elementary school principal John Crouch were recruited for pounding rice dough with large wooden mallets. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed eating the fruits of their labor, mochi.



The group ended their day at the Hotel Sakurai where the Kusatsu hot springs were located. This beautiful hotel had an onsen and a performance of the traditional churning of the hot springs with cooler water using long boards. The delegation joined in the festivities of churning of the water.

Next morning, delegates wandered Kusatsu-choei village with traditional shops around an open hot spring.

The last evening of the bus trip, the delegates stayed at a smaller ryokan with a roof top onsen in Nagano.



Day 6: Mayumi Takahashi Museum of Doll Art had intricate 8" dolls grouped together around themes of rural life. After this stop, delegates were entertained at the Togakushi Ninja Trick House and Ninja Museum.

Even with the typhoon raining down on these Oregonians, they didn't hesitate when they stopped at the Togakushi Naka-sha Shrine to run up four flights of stairs to view the temple surrounded by a waterfall and old growth cedar.

Lunch was enjoyed in this small rural village at a buckwheat noodle restaurant complete with a second story view of nearby granite peaks. Beyond could be seen the Japanese snow capped Alps.

Returning to Kuki-city, delegates and their bus hosts were treated to dinner at a French restaurant called 'Dandelion'.



Steve Erickson, Matt Timm, and Gregg Timm pictured.

Days 7 and 8 included tours around the city. The beautiful Choryuji Temple is always a highlight for members. The school's three, four and five year olds dressed in their classroom uniforms waved Japanese and American flags. Inside the school, the children played taiko drums and danced.



New this year was the school's bus, a 'Thomas the Train' themed van, here with David Johnston ready to drive!



Eiji Arai, President of the Kuki-Roseburg Association pictured.

Choryuji Temple, adjacent to the school, provided a more serious reflection as the Buddhist priest lead the group in prayers for peace and well being.

Following lunch, delegates were invited to join English classes at Shobu Elementary. Interestingly, one of the hosts, Mrs. Koyama, shared that this was the same school she attended in the 1930's.



David Johnston leads an English class as Janet waits her turn at the Shobu Elementary School.

The Honda Memory Hall was on the city tour featuring Dr. Seiroku Honda, 1866-1952, who was born in Shobu and is the 'Father of Forestry' in Japan. He

planned parks and forests, and wrote many books on forestry and landscaping.

Participation was key to the last day in Kuki. Dressed in traditional aprons and head scarfs, delegates made buckwheat noodles and then enjoyed these for lunch.



The Saitamatobu Fire Bureau was the next stop. Fire Chief Timm was given full gear to do hose drills aiming on buildings, then we finished up with others hopping in the ladder truck bucket to view the city from above.



Roseburg Fire Chief Timm, Fire Chief Hiroyuki Mori, and Mayor Rich.

The 2017 trip came to a close on Saturday, October 28th as Roseburg residents said goodbye to their many new and old friends. As Matt Timm said, he never expected the emotion that would come with a Sister City experience in Japan, for he felt like he was leaving family.

~~submitted by Katherine Elisar~~



On the bus trip, members were always in the care of these excellent Kuki-city hosts and city officials:



October 2017 Delegates and Host Families

- David and Janet JohnstonSachiko Iwai
- Katherine ElisarEtsuko and Mikio Okano
- Steve and Diana BrownUtako Morisawa
- John and Laurel CrouchTutomu and Ginko Yamada
- Steve EricksonShoichi and Yoshiko Yamada
- Andrea Gray..... Chizuko Tsuboi
- Larry and Alpha RichHideko Arai
- Jon and Akiyo RiggsShinichi and Nobuko Imamura
- David and Anne SoderYasuko Koyama/Sumiko Komatsu
- Gregg Timm and Matt TimmChieko Hishinuma
- Dave and Maureen WilliamsHiroko Kojima



Please Join or Renew RSC Membership!

New Membership Renew Membership (Tax Deductible 503-C3)
 Family \$30 Single \$20 Student: \$5 (with School ID)
Business: \$75 (1 yr.) Business: \$125 (2 yrs.)

**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 to let us know 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
Visit to Japan: (usually October, 9-12 days) Travel as Delegate
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



**Roseburg Sister Cities
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- ... *Membership is now due*
- ... *Volunteers needed for 2018 Delegation visit*
- ... *Save your treasures for May 2018 yard sale*