



# The Bridge

December 2018

**Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.**  
Friendship & Understanding since 1993  
Roseburg, Oregon & Kuki City, Japan

**Co-Editors**  
Debbie Fields 541-643-7824  
Nancy Pittman 541-733-2442

## The President's Corner



Season's Greetings,

2019 is almost here and we are ready for the Year of the Boar! This Lunar New Year symbol heralds wealth, achievement, and generosity to overflow! Please join the fun this year with Roseburg Sister Cities to enrich yourself with friendship and understanding.

This summer the Kuki City middle school students will be here in Roseburg. Prospective parents of delegates should connect ASAP! This is a chance for your child to have so many wonderful memories. Please consider joining and hosting next summer.

The next adult delegation headed to Japan, will depart this October and planning has already commenced. Members should connect if interested very soon. We are so excited for the connections to be made with our friends.

I wish to also thank everyone who attended and made possible such a great annual dinner this past November. We elected some great members to the board and met several new faces joining the membership and the fun. I also wish to thank departing board member Cindy Hutchison!

Remember you can connect directly with us at [www.roseburgsistercities.org](http://www.roseburgsistercities.org) and always 'Like' us on Facebook and virtually stay in touch there.

Last, thank you to everyone who has sent in their annual dues. Active membership status helps maintain the bonds of friendship.

Hope to see you soon at all the upcoming events. Happy holidays!

Sincerely,

Thomas McGregor  
President, Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.



## Membership Due

The 2019 membership fees are now due. Also, members if you have someone who has expressed interest in our organization, please encourage them to join and be a part of our activities. To pay membership dues or for more information please contact Kevin Carson [kdcarson54@gmail.com](mailto:kdcarson54@gmail.com) or 541-680-9640.



## Calendar of Events

**December 10<sup>th</sup> 5:00** Board of Directors Meeting at Phoenix School

**December 10<sup>th</sup>** Application due for Adult Delegation to Japan

**December 12<sup>th</sup> 6:30** Book Club meets

**December 19<sup>th</sup>** Application due for 2019-2020 Middle School program

**July 2019** Japanese Middle School students visit Roseburg

**October 18 – 26** Adult delegation travels to Japan

## Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.

P.O. Box 1643  
Roseburg, OR 97470  
[www.roseburgsistercities.org](http://www.roseburgsistercities.org)  
[www.facebook.com/RoseburgSisterCities](https://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, Joanie Chambers, Steve Erickson, JoAnn Pico

## Your 2018 Board at Work

At the most recent board meeting November 12, 2018 we welcomed Joanie Chambers to the board. Executive board was voted on and approved and remains the same; President Thomas McGregor, Vice President Janet Johnston, Secretary Debbie Fields and Treasurer Kevin Carson. Many items of business were discussed including the board's invitation to the Emperor's Birthday Celebration at the Portland Consulate.

A motion was presented and approved to continue with the current budget year of 1/1 through 12/13 for the organization with fiscal year reporting remaining at 7/1 through 6/30. Also discussed were maintaining our accounts at Wells Fargo Bank.

The 2019 delegation was discussed. Co-chairs for the delegation are Kevin Carson and Janet Johnston. Delegate meetings and language classes are being planned. Middle School group is outreaching for new members for 2019 - 2020 cycle.

Other items of discussion included a new tech committee that will be meeting in the next few months and volunteers to that committee are welcome; RSC brochure in process of being updated; Marin Gray has requested RSC again be involved in her B.R.A.V.E. event at Roseburg High School next February or March; and Celebration of Literacy will need volunteers for the next event.

Do not hesitate to contact Board members to get updates and answer any questions you may have.



### New Board Member Joanie Chambers



We (husband Bruce and my three sons, Rick, Larry, and Curtis) moved to Roseburg in 1969 from Tillamook. Here in Roseburg I have enjoyed participating in PTA, Garden Club, New Comers Club, Art Association, Cub Scout Den Mother, raising money for Easter Seals, and working with students at the Fullerton 4 special reading program. In 1980 I was honored by the Chamber of Commerce when I was selected as Volunteer of the Month.

After my sons left for college, I worked for Regis Salons (1981 to 1995) and Perfect Look Salons (1995 to 2016) as a District Supervisor. I retired from the hair business on July 15, 2016. I have been involved with the Roseburg Sister Cities for about twenty years. I look forward to participating in the Roseburg Sister Cities program as a member of the Board of Directors.

*\*\*\*submitted by Joanie Chambers\*\*\**



**Thanks to Retiring Board Member Cindy Hutchison! Roseburg Sister Cities sincerely appreciates you, your time on the board and your support of the organization.**



### Book Club News

In September the Japanese Book Club met to discuss "Drifting Towards the Southeast" by John Manjiro, a fascinating first-hand account of five Japanese fishermen blown off course in 1841 (before the opening of Japan in 1854, it should be noted), and the many events that happened before they were able to return to Japan. The book is worthwhile reviewing, if only for the illustrations. For December we have chosen a more "lightweight" book: "Getting Genki in Japan" by Karen Pond. It is an amusing take on an American family's year in Japan.

Next meeting will be on December 12th, and all are welcome. Please contact a member of the Sister Cities for information on place and time.

*\*\*\*submitted by Una Honscheid\*\*\**

**Happy  
Holidays!**

## Kuki City 2018 Middle School Visitation

The visit to Kuki City, July 12 – 24<sup>th</sup>, was comprised of seventeen students and three chaperones; Paul Whitworth (director), Allison Whitworth (wife and teacher at Glide Elementary), and Scott Greenhow (Vice Principal at Joseph Lane Middle School).

This was the Whitworth's third trip and they stayed with Hiroyuki and Satomi Arai who hosted them on their last visit also. Their daughters Yuri, Hiroyuki and Satomi have all participated in the program and Hikari hosted one girl on this visit. Scott's first visit was hosted by the Takehara family. Scott enjoyed his host family and their English-speaking skills and really enjoyed the trip...well, maybe not the heat. This trip was HOT with every day 100 degrees or more and high humidity. The last day was a record high temperature.

Students prepared speeches for both the Welcome and Farewell parties. Our students stepped up and showed leadership and fully participated in optional activities. Several students shared their experiences with me and genuinely learned from being there. Many students shared their wish to stay longer.

We left Roseburg at 5 a.m. on July 12<sup>th</sup>, flying from Eugene to Narita via Delta Airlines. The city bus collected us at Narita and took us to a youth hostel southwest of Kuki. We settled in and ate a great dinner in the cafeteria with a wide variety of choices.

The next morning after a great breakfast buffet at the hostel, we were transported to the burial mounds and the museum there and then did a stone carving class. The students really enjoyed this activity and ended up with a nice necklace. Lunch was served at a nearby restaurant. After lunch, the bus took us to the castle in Gyoda. We enjoyed a trip through the museum and grounds ending with a group photo on the front bridge. We then went to the lotus garden park, and up the tower for views of the garden and the always impressive rice field art. We continued on to Washinomiya Shrine. Students participated in the rituals demonstrated to us. From there, the we were transported to the city activity center for our Welcome Party. It was a fun time culminating in everyone leaving with their host family.



Sunday was a day with host families. Monday was a national holiday. Everyone met at city hall to take a bus to the Tobu Zoo and amusement park. Because of the heat, the place was almost deserted so our group had free reign until 4:30 p.m., when we took the bus back. The kids enjoyed it when I kept going on the roller coasters with them.

Tuesday was our middle school visit to Washinomiya Junior High. The principal is Mak, who came with the group to Roseburg in 2017. We started the day out with an all school assembly which included speeches and gift exchange. We then joined teams of students in group jump rope. Our group then split off to learn some origami and calligraphy. The rest of the day was spent in smaller groups visiting music class, English class, math class, etc. At the end of the day we all joined in the sports activities.

Wednesday was another school day with a twist. Students went with their host student while the three adults went to Shobu Elementary. They had an all school assembly where students sang and danced for us. We spent time in various classes and students tried their English on us, performed more, and we read to them. We ate lunch with the second grade which was cute. When we left, the entire school came out for hugs and high fives. We were rock stars! We then headed to Shobu Junior High, where I saw a few familiar faces. We spent time in their classes, especially English. The day ended with us watching sports activities. After a rest, we got dropped off in downtown Kuki for the Lantern Festival. Lots of food to try and music to listen to. There were also many lantern "floats" to see.

Thursday was "City Day". At the city center, we learned the Kuki City dance and song which was very fast and complicated. We only had one hour to learn it before doing a video for the city. We then went to the kitchen area where we were joined by members of the adult group. We all cooked together. There was curry, miso soup, and potato salad being made by the students, along with lots of other food. We had a wonderful lunch then boarded the bus for the main fire station.



At the fire station we started off in a large meeting room and had several speeches. We then toured the facility, which was very impressive. Once outside, most students took the opportunity to go up the 40-meter tall ladder. It was so hot that I jokingly said, "We should have a hose spray the group". They said, "Why not"? and set up two hoses spraying up in the air so the water rained down on us. In the end, I am not sure who had more fun, the firemen or us.



Friday was a group trip to Kawagoe. We visited a glass engraving shop where everyone chose a glass and learned how to engrave it. After some practice, we chose a design. This was a fun activity that ended with a great souvenir. From there, we walked to lunch at a really nice restaurant. We slipped our shoes off at the door and put them into cubbies. Lunch was ready for us, and it looked beautiful. The food was wonderful. Afterwards, the group was free to roam the main streets under the adults' watchful eyes. Our time in Kawagoe felt far too short, but it was time to load the bus and head back to Kuki.



**\*\*\*submitted by Paul Whitworth\*\*\***

Saturday and Sunday were both family days. Sunday included the Farewell Party at the city center. The party was really fun and much lower key than the Welcome Party. We had snacks and drinks after the speeches and gifts, and families got a chance to say good bye to other students. I thanked all families for hosting.



## **A Heartfelt Thanks**

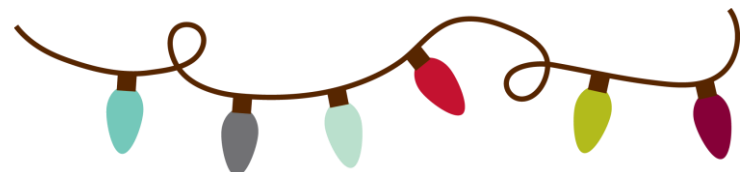
Monday started out leisurely. We wandered the neighborhood and picked up a few items at a small store. The Sister City Horse Sculpture was along the way, so we stopped for a visit and a few photos. Finally, it was time to leave and go to City Hall to say good-bye to everyone for the last time. It was a very tearful period. Because of the extreme heat, we went to the mall in Hanyu. Around 4 p.m., the bus took us to our last night's destination, Navel Park. The group checked into the beautiful hostel and explored the park while a barbecue dinner was prepared. The last evening was spent outside eating too much, hydrating, and lighting many sparklers.

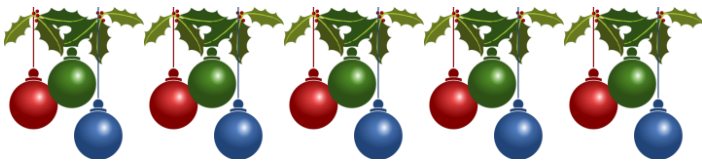
As co-chairs of the last delegates' visit to Roseburg in June, Janet Johnston and I, Debbie Fields, wish to express our very heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of the members of our very special organization. From the host families to the translators to the event chairs to the membership that participated in all of the week's events, we thank you. As you all know, an organization is only as good as its members and we have a great one!

A special recognition to the following:

- Chairs – Debbie Fields and Janet Johnston
- Host Families – Janet Johnston
- Translators – Akiyo Riggs
- City Day – David Johnston
- Welcome Dinner – Connie Kloha
- Bus Trip – Janet Johnston and Debbie Fields
- Farewell Dinner – Nancy Pittman and Marliene Swanson

Our last day began with breakfast in the hostel cafe along with maybe forty kindergarten-aged kids. Our group loaded on the bus, and headed to City Hall one last time to grab our suitcases. We did get to see some families again as they came to say goodbye again. The bus took us to Narita airport for our departure. We landed in Eugene at 4:30 p.m. to 97 degrees.... which felt so good after the extreme heat of Japan.





## Annual Dinner Celebration

The Annual Dinner, co-chaired by Nancy Pittman and Marliene Swanson, was held at Linus Oakes on Sunday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> in the Community Room. Reserved by resident, Martha Scott; the room had been set up by Linus Oakes personnel, and Marliene and Joanie Chambers placed branches of "Chinese Lanterns," flower pods that look like little orange lanterns, on the tables as centerpieces.

Attendees were greeted by Kevin Carson, who accepted 2019 memberships, and his wife, Katherine Elisar, who saw that each person had a name tag and a raffle ticket. Kevin also made the table agendas.



About 62 people were in attendance. Guests included Sarara Shirkawa, a Japanese student sponsored by Rotary Club, and students, Gabe Simmons from Joseph Lane Middle School in Roseburg and Hannah Long, Glide Middle School. Their parents, Derek Simmons and Kelli Long also attended. Both students had been on the July trip to Kuki, Japan. Other guests were Dr. Angela Jones, her husband, and Johanna Wingert.



A variety of potluck foods were shared and enjoyed. President Thomas McGregor led the business meeting and the 2019 Board was elected with Joanie Chambers as the new member. The drawing for the raffle was handled by Bev Paulson who described the gifts and Thomas called out the winners. The raffle items were furnished by Janet Johnston and Debbie Fields.



A slight change had to be made from the past. The sake cups that are used every year were not available as they were in the RSC storage unit at the City Library and could not be accessed due to construction. Small paper containers were substituted. For the students attending and adults that don't drink, some of the containers had water in them so everyone could participate in the Kampai. Serving the sake were Marliene Swanson, Akiyo Riggs, Jo Ann Pico, and Nancy Pittman.

Paul Whitworth, who led the student trip to Japan, presented the evening program. He asked several questions of the students about their experiences. He also showed pictures he had taken of the students and their activities. All liked having the students there to share their Japanese experiences and impressions.

Thelma Sayers, long-time member, was going to be celebrating her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday the next day. Flowers were given to her plus a cupcake and birthday card, and everyone sang Happy Birthday to her.



HD Honscheid led the Kampai and Kevin Carson closed with the Shime. Geri Behan brought the floral bouquet and Maureen Williams took photos. Many helped clean up. The evening had been a success.

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## Fund-raising

Fund-raising activities will continue in 2019 with another yard sale scheduled for early June. Please save all your unneeded items for our sale. Additionally, we are still taking orders for permanent name tags at \$14.95 each. Contact Debbie Fields, 541-643-7824, or [debfields54@gmail.com](mailto:debfields54@gmail.com) for more information.



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

- *December 10<sup>th</sup> is due date for delegation application!*
- *Stay tuned for date of next yard sale.*
- *Delegation to Japan October 18 – 26, 2019.*