



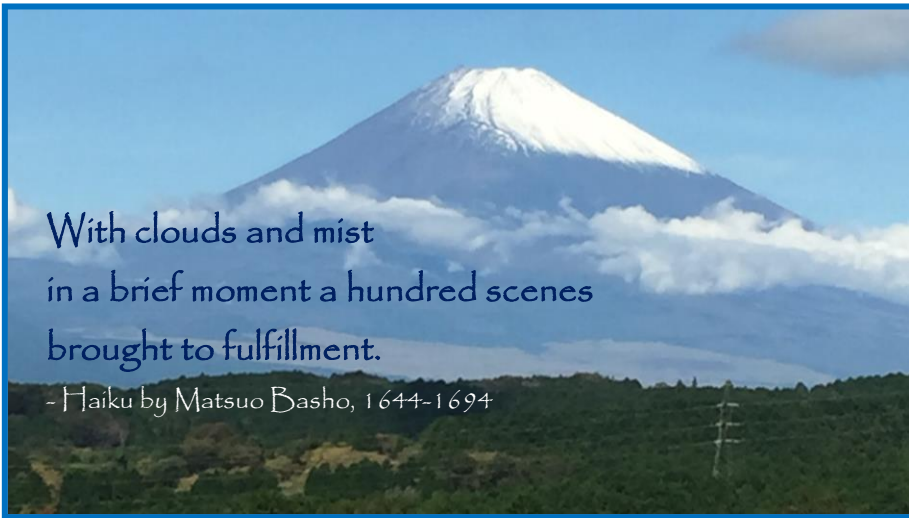
The Bridge

December 2019

Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.

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

Editor, Katherine Elisar
541-680-3614



With clouds and mist
in a brief moment a hundred scenes
brought to fulfillment.

- Haiku by Matsuo Basho, 1644-1694

The President's Corner



Greetings,

With folks settling into their winter hibernation routines, it is a good time to reflect upon this past year before the bells of the New Year. Please enjoy this newsletter filled with stories of all the good times with our friends in Japan.

I wish to give kudos to everyone who traveled to Kuki City, representing our community as delegates. It is an incredible duty to share your story and your smile.

This reflects largely upon our community as a whole and impacts the global community with increased friendship and understanding across the seas.

I am also very proud to announce this is the time for parents and caregivers of middle schoolers to enroll in Roseburg Sister Cities. We are piecing together the next team to venture to Japan this year. A lifetime of memories can be made with this eye-opening experience; contact us and learn more today!

Lastly, thank you to everyone who sent in their annual dues. Active membership status helps maintain the bonds of friendship. Remember you can connect with us at www.roseburgsistercities.org on membership and all things Roseburg Sister Cities.

Hope to see you soon at the Literacy Fair in February or a delegation meeting!

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



Calendar of Events

December 9th, 5:00 pm: RSC Board Meeting at Phoenix School.

December 16th: **Student Exchange Applications Due.** Application: www.RoseburgSisterCities.org, or Kuki Student Facebook page. Tentative dates: **July 17-27, 2020.** (See more information below.)

January 15, 2020, 6:30 pm: RSC Book Club meets at the Berkshire Hathaway offices on Mulholland to review our next book, "Walking the Kiso Road" by William Scott Wilson. (See article below.)

February 22, 2020, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm: Booth at Celebration of Literacy, DC Fairgrounds. Writing names in English & Katakana on headbands & bookmarks. Contact Akiyo Riggs or Marliene Swanson.

February 2020: Planting of the Ginkgo Tree from Hiroshima at UCC. (See article below.)

Spring 2020: RSC Garden Restoration at Roseburg City Library. (See article below.)



Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.

P.O. Box 1643 Roseburg, OR, 97470
www.roseburgsistercities.org
www.facebook.com/RoseburgSisterCities

Board of Directors

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

Other Board Members

Joanie Chambers, Steve Erickson, Karsha Owen,
JoAnn Pico, Nancy Pittman, Akiyo Riggs,
Maureen Williams

2019 Delegation Trip to Japan

We were only out of town for about 10 days but it may take much longer to process the whirlwind of sights and activities experienced during our 2019 Roseburg Sister Cities trip to Japan. Even if the sight was as small as the kindergartners at Choryu-ji Temple (actually over one hundred 4 and 5 year olds) greeting and entertaining us – or as large as seeing Mount Fuji with the first dusting of snow – all Delegates were greatly impressed during our visit.



Suzi Armstrong with her mother, Martha Scott being greeted at the entrance to Choryu-ji Kindergarten and Temple.

The main category of surprise and enjoyment came from many people including: Host Families (my host family was Akinori, Hideko, & Koki Miyakoshi), Kuki City Mayor Shuichi Umeda and his entire staff, all of the members of the Kuki – Roseburg Association, the numerous kind and extremely helpful translators, plus many old friends and new friends in Japan. All contributed to the fantastic, world class hospitality as we discovered just some of the many facets of Japanese history, culture, and traditions. Thank you!

This is not to overlook our own Roseburg Sister Cities Board of Directors and members who expended a great amount of time, energy, and knowledge to prepare all 20 members of the delegation for this trip which has created lifetime memories for all involved – on both sides of the Pacific Ocean.

Now, it is off to write about one zillion thank you notes which will provide another chance to relive many of the wonderful memories of our Delegation trip to our Sister City – Kuki, Japan!



David Johnston with Katsumi Shibuya, friends for 23 years.

Participate!

Being selected as a delegate for the trip to Japan or as host family in Roseburg for visitors from Japan, will provide you with your own set of lifetime memories – just ask anyone who has participated!

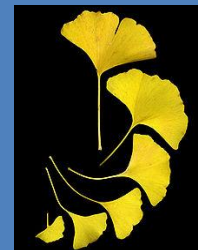
- Submitted by 2019
Delegate, David
Johnston.



Hideko Miyakoshi, David Johnston, Tomoko Shimazaki, and Koki Miyakoshi. Background statue – Dr. Seiroku Honda (1867-1952) of Shobu/Kuki who was Japan's Father of Forestry, writing 300 books on forestry, & designing many parks.

Thank you

to our Japanese Language teachers for
preparing us for this journey:
Eric and Kimiko Olson.





The 2019 Annual Dinner Celebration

The Annual Dinner, co-chaired by Nancy Pittman and Marliene Swanson, was held at Linus Oakes on Sunday, November 3rd, at 4:00 p.m. in the Community Room, reserved by resident, Martha Scott and set up by Linus Oakes personnel who also prepared the coffee for the evening. The Decorating Committee consisted of Joanie Chambers, Marliene Swanson, and Akiyo Riggs who placed glass jars on the tables with small lights inside, surrounded with fresh leaves and flowers.



Dinner attendees were met by Kevin Carson who took 2020 memberships, and Debbie Fields, who saw that each person had a name tag and a raffle ticket for the drawing. Varieties of potluck foods had been brought and were enjoyed by all.



Forty-eight people attended, including those who had just returned from the exchange trip to Kuki, Japan. Katherine Elisar poured the sake and she and Marliene Swanson served it. David Johnston led the "Kampai." President Thomas McGregor conducted the business meeting. The 2020 Executive Board was elected with Maureen Williams and Karsha Owen voted in as new members. Those retiring, Dr. Andrea Gray, Connie Kloha, and Paul Whitworth, were thanked for their service.

The raffle drawing was held with several people choosing prizes. "Happy Birthday" was sung to long-time member, Thelma Sayers, who was going to be 99 years old in two days, November 5th.

The program for the evening consisted of each person who had gone on the recent trip to Japan, telling something special about his/her experience.

Then the group finished by singing, "The More We Get Together, the Happier We'll Be", a song sang in Kuki City at their Welcome Dinner. Kevin Carson closed with the Shime. The evening had been a success and was finished about 7:00 pm.



Delegation Co-Leader, Janet Johnston, shares her experiences of painting her lantern at the Kuki City Festival.

- Submitted by Nancy Pittman

2019 Song Sung at Welcome Dinner in Kuki City, Japan & at the 2019 Annual Meeting

"The More We Get Together"

*The more we get together,
together, together,
The more we get together,
the happier we'll be.
For your friends are my friends,
and my friends are your friends.
The more we get together,
the happier we'll be.*

*Lead by Nancy Pittman and sung in a round with
music graciously provided by Larry Brown.*



New Board Members!

Maureen Williams

Maureen and her husband, Dave, moved to Roseburg in 1998. Maureen taught Special Education, Title One and regular Fourth Grade at various schools here. The year they first retired in October 2017, they were delegates and were matched to a super hostess, Hiroko Kojimi. She and Dave enjoyed their trip immensely. They have hosted Mizuki and Yasako, and Kiroko. They both love to travel and being out in nature. Maureen really enjoys gardening, photography and watercolor painting. They have two sons, daughter-in-laws, two granddaughters, four step grandchildren and a step-great grandson. Maureen said that she looks forward to supporting such a worthwhile program.



Welcome, Maureen, to your new role on the board!

Karsha Owen

Karsha is 35 years old and in 1999 was chosen to be a part of the Student Exchange to Shobu town and then, her son was selected and traveled to Kuki City in July of 2018. Following this, the family enjoyed the experience of hosting a student this past summer.



Karsha has been involved with FFA FCCLA and is on the board for Camp Millennium as well as serving as a counselor for the camp. She works for UCAN Head Start as a preschool teacher.

Karsha is a strong supporter of the Student Exchange and would like to get lots of kids involved, giving them the opportunities to see the world just like she had!

Welcome, Karsha, to your new role on the board!

Homestay in Japan

Japan is an amazing country with magnificent Mt. Fuji; famous and historical temples and shrines, some thousands of years old; beautiful countryside, gardens, architecture; and with culture and traditions steeped in hundreds of years blending old with new.

Nancy Wolgamott and I (Charlotte Carter) had the privilege of being



hosted by Hiroko Kojima. This was her second time of hosting visitors. She first hosted Maureen and Dave Williams in 2017 and then came to Roseburg in 2018



and stayed with Maureen and Dave. Hiroko is the CEO of a Water Treatment Plant, where she works with two of her three sons. She doesn't speak a lot

of English, but fortunately, we both had electronic translators, our "cheat sheets" from Eric Olson's classes, and her second son, Ryo (Leo), who speaks English and was our translator for most of our outings. Hiroko lives in a beautiful, traditional, three story home filled with art, photos, and collections. Nancy and I were amazed when she showed us an electronic trap door in the kitchen opening to an underground storage and pantry. We slept on tatami mats on the floor, a new experience for both of us and were quite comfortable.



Hiroko, her son, Ryo, and her grand-daughter, Churi Chi, took Nancy and I by train to Tokyo where we toured the Sensoji Temple, rode in

jinrikisha throughout Tokyo, ate sushi, deep-fried squid, and many other delicacies, then visited the Tokyo Sky Tree for a birds-eye view of the city.

The next day Ryo drove us to Nikko where we visited the massive and beautiful Toshogu Shrine. We were able to listen to electronic English translator devices, sharing the history and meaning of each building in the Shrine. We climbed well over 200 steps, all up hill, to view the beautiful burial site.



After another wonderful traditional Japanese meal, we headed to Nikko Oyo Stone factory where they literally have been cutting stone of all sizes for hundreds of years to build houses, fences, walls, etc. This mountain had gigantic caverns larger than football fields that are now used for weddings, music venues, and tours.



Hiroko is a fabulous cook. We ate traditional Japanese foods with chopsticks, seated on cushions on the floor at a low table in her home. Every meal was beautifully prepared and arranged. Some of our many delicious foods included: miso soup, sushi, sashimi, makizushi, yuba, Sukiyaki with Kobe Beef, pickled eggplant and leeks, edamame, yuba, tofu, rice, persimmon, fresh pears, pudding served in an egg shell, a caramelized peanut dish, ramen, squid, natto, a sweet jello/pudding dish, and green tea.



As Charlotte was celebrating her birthday while in Japan, Hiroko scheduled us for a photoshoot in kimonos. We selected the kimonos and an obi and



were assisted with our hair and makeup and then taken downstairs to a professional photographer. Hiroko presented both Nancy and I with the finished photos and the obi we wore as gifts on our last night.



It was an amazing experience for both of us. We had Mt. Fuji cake, laughed at our adventures, shared photos and opened many gifts.



(L to R, front): Charlotte Carter, Nancy Wolgamott and Hiroko Kojima, (2nd row): Junko (Hiroko's daughter-in-law), Tiro and Churi Chi (Hiroko's grandchildren) and Ryo (Leo – Hiroko's second son)

On our last day, just before heading to the airport, we were treated with one last look at Mt. Fuji in the background. This trip was an amazing adventure for both of us. So many memories of beautiful Japan. This trip will forever be in our hearts and memories.

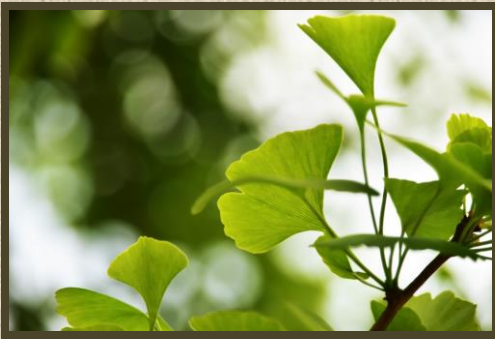
The people of Japan are among the friendliest and most generous I have ever met. Nancy and I have made so many new friends both in Roseburg and through Roseburg Sister Cities and in Japan. We would definitely recommend this trip.



To be immersed in Japanese tradition and culture is the best way to see, to experience, and to understand.

- Mata kondo, Nancy Wolgamott and Charlotte Carter

RSC to Receive Ginkgo Tree from Hiroshima



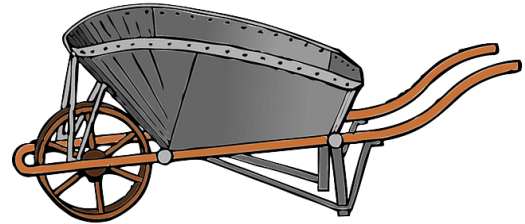
RSC will be receiving a ginkgo seedling from the trees that survived the bombing 74 years ago in Hiroshima, Japan. Hiroshima residents have been sharing seeds from those survivor trees around the world, seeing them as messengers of peace. We learned a couple months ago that the Oregon Department of Forestry was offering these seedlings to cities and schools. About 30 ginkgo seedlings had germinated in Oregon and were available.

RSC submitted a proposal partnering with UCC to obtain one of these seedlings. UCC President Deborah Thatcher was excited about the possibility as was their Director of Facilities and their arborist. Because of our partnership with UCC and our sister city relationship with Kuki City, Japan, the RSC proposal was the highest rated proposal in the state and will be receiving a seedling.

2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the bombing and the end of World War II. The best time for planting the seedling is in February, but a ceremony marking the planting will come later, possibly in April.

Stay tuned to your emails for more information.

- Submitted by Kevin Carson



THE RSC FRIENDSHIP GARDEN!

An intrepid group of faithful Sister City volunteers met on Friday, September 13th for a rousing and very productive morning of a variety of gardening activities.

With much gratitude, we thank those that came for the session: Nancy Pittman, Marliene and Art Swanson, David Johnston, Kevin Carson, Maureen Williams, Tracy Pope and Steve Erickson. New plants were added to the existing garden and a few native plants were placed on the creek side of the garden path. Other plants were mulched, pruned, manicured and otherwise weeded and tended to.

Work was all done under the skilled and watchful eye of Tracy Pope, horticulturist extraordinaire for the City of Roseburg. Tracy is interfacing with the new Librarian with the City of Roseburg about the intended direction of the Roseburg Sister City Friendship Garden as well as any future “hardscape” ideas for the garden. Tracy has also been communicating with Emily Brandt and Jamie Willeke, both of whom have offered their expertise in landscaping and are working with ideas for enhancing the pathway that leads through the garden.

While volunteers brought their favorite garden tools, Tracy had an array of needed hand tools as well as wheelbarrows to further the garden restoration efforts.

Again, thanks to those involved with the garden resurrection. It's been rewarding to view the progress and beauty once again unfolding behind the library.

The next garden restoration day will be held in the Spring of 2020. We will be sending out notice to the membership as to the exact time and date in hopes the enthusiasm and good energy that has permeated our restoration days will continue to prevail in the future.

- For further information call Steve Erickson: 541-672-4367



October 2019 Bus Trip to Mt. Fuji

The focus of the three day bus trip was Mt. Fuji, but the weather was certainly not cooperating on this Tuesday morning with remnants of a recent typhoon passing through.



We headed out from Shobu City Hall, southwest to the city of Shizuoka on the coast of Japan. We stopped for lunch at Jaws Restaurant on

the industrial waterfront of Shizuoka City. It was a popular place with more delicious food choices on the buffet than you could ever want and then some time for shopping. Getting back to the bus, the rains had stopped and everyone was excited that Mt. Fuji had made an appearance through layers of clouds across the bay.



Sachiko Iwai & Marliene Swanson on the ferry in front of Mt. Fuji.

We boarded the ferry that took us (and the bus) across Suruga Bay to the Izu Peninsula where our hotel was located. The ferry route is actually a designated road, Route 223, Fujisan. We were treated to the more luxurious upper level with beautiful views of the bay and of Mt. Fuji.



On Ferry headed to Mt. Fuji: L to R – Jon & Jeannie Burpee, Martha Scott, & her daughter, Suzi Armstrong, & Ginko Yamada.



Arriving at the opposite shore and back on the bus, the Hotel New Ginsui was our destination for the night, sitting atop the rocky coast.



<https://www.dougashima-newginsui.jp/en/>

Donning our yukatas, we went to the lobby where all the guests celebrated the sunset with wine. The evening was filled with great food, karaoke, and the onsen.

The next morning, skies had completely cleared and we headed for the Mishima Skywalk, the longest pedestrian suspension bridge in Japan with what should provide us with panoramic views of Mt. Fuji and Suruga Bay. As the bus made its way up the valley and into the mountains, we rounded a corner and Mt. Fuji was in front of us, with the first snow of the season on its peak. At the Skywalk, the faint of heart stayed at the shops while the rest walked across,



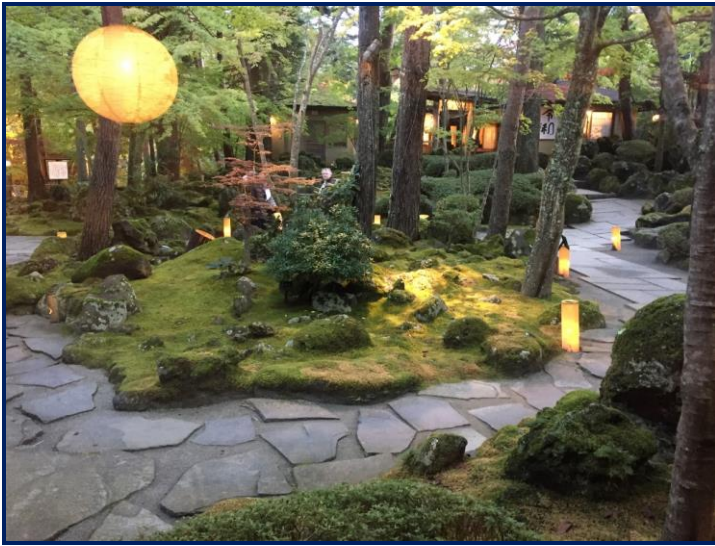
enjoying the beautiful views. Some delegates would have even opted to make the crossing on the zip line if that was an option!



Nancy Pittman sanding her magic box.

Back on the bus and on to Hakone. Here we were led by a craftsman to make “magic parquetry boxes”. Lunch was another scenic spot with Fuji above the mountains surrounding Hakone, then on to spend the night at Hotel Kaneyamaen at Fujiyoshida.

<http://www.kaneyamaen.com/eng/>



Hotel Kaneyamaen was beautiful inside and out. After arriving, we had tea in the garden tea house and then sake along the stream while enjoying the gardens softly lit at dusk by bamboo lanterns. Another wonderful dinner, multiple onsens to choose from, and a taiko drum performance in the lobby rounded out the evening.



on Mt. Fuji. Not being able to see the view, we focused on mailing post cards from the post office with an array of Japanese stamps available, the gift shop, and the Fujisan Komitake Shrine, a small but beautiful Shinto shrine set in the golden larches. There a Kannushi carefully painted a goshuin entry in our temple book.

The next day we awoke to low clouds that obscured Fuji while some enjoyed an early morning soak in the rooftop onsen. But still we made our way up Mt. Fuji enjoying the colored fall leaves and even the Japanese larch trees turning golden. The end of the road was at the Fifth Station



Then back down the mountain to a fabulous udon noodle lunch and a highlight for many, the Kitaguchi Hongu Fuji Sengen Shrine. <https://sengenjinja.jp/english/index.html>



This shrine set amongst ancient Japanese Cedars with beautiful stone lanterns and temples is the traditional starting point for climbing Mt. Fuji. We could have stayed here for hours but we were headed back to Kuki with a stop along the way in old town Kawagoe lined with multiple small traditional shops selling crafts, woodblock prints, bean paste cakes, and green matcha tea.



This was a wonderful trip thanks to the excellent planning, trusted interpreters, thoughtful companions, and great bus driver from Japan. Many of these are repeat travelers with us over the years, and we owe them all many thanks!



- Submitted by Kevin Carson

Thank you
to these 2019 Bus-trip Participants:

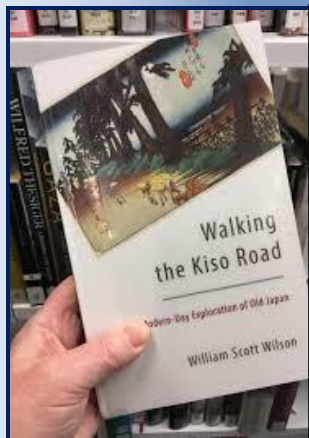
Ginko Yamada, Yoshie Arai,
Sanae Kawamoto, Chieko Hishinuma,
Sachiko Iwai, Kaoru Hirasawa,
Mizuki Fukami, Fumio Tsuboi,
Noriteru Tojo, Yasunori Koyama,
and our trusted bus-driver, Mr. Kato!

2019 Adult Delegates & Host Families were:

Janet Johnston, Co-Leader	Yoshiyuki & Kaori Shirako
Kevin Carson, Co-Leader & Katherine Elisar	Etsuko & Mikio Okano
Roy Riggs	Eiji & Kiyoe Iijima
David Johnston	Akinori & Hideko Miyakoshi
Nancy Pittman	Yasuko & Kuniko Koyama
Marliene Swanson	Sachiko Iwai
Joanie Chambers & Bev Cole	Isao & Shizuko Hattori
Martha Scott & Suzi Armstrong	Tsutomu & Ginko Yamada
Charlotte Carter & Nancy Wolgamott	Hiroko Kojima
Linda Fisher Fowler & Sheila Cox	Toshie & Tetsuya Matsui
Jon & Jeannie Burpee	Shoichi & Yoshiko Yamada
Skyler Abel	Chie & Takashi Takamatsu
Jeneen Hartley & Emily Brandt	Kenichiro & Rie Hirasawa

Meet-up: at RSC Book Club!

Roseburg Sister Cities Book Club meets approximately every three months to discuss a book having to do, in some general sense, with Japan. Our interests are broad, and we have ranged through fiction, non-fiction, history, biographies, including the stories of Japanese in North America, to the joys and trials of foreigners living in Japan.



Our next book is "Walking the Kiso Road" by William Scott Wilson, a "Modern Day Exploration of Old Japan" that includes "...rich history and lore, literary & artistic significance, cuisine & architecture", as well as the author's own experiences.

Our meeting will be at the offices of Berkshire Hathaway on Mulholland, on Wednesday, January 15th, at 6:30 pm. Anyone with an interest in Japan, literature, and lively discussion, is welcome.

** Submitted by Una Honsheid*

KUKI STUDENT EXCHANGE

- ✚ Student Exchange Applications are due on **Monday, Dec 16th.**
- ✚ Application available on the website, www.RoseburgSisterCities.org, or follow the link on the Kuki Student Exchange Facebook page.
- ✚ Rough travel dates are **July 17-27, 2020.** *Kuki Lantern Festival is July 18th.*

The Kuki Team currently has 14 current members (6 girls, 8 boys):

ReeAnn Abel, Eston Barney, Will Crouch, Anjel Cernak, Noah Eichenbusch, Peyton Fisher, Hannah Groth, Salina Herrera, Paul Kercher, Katelyn Lane, Josiah Long, Macy Mornarich, Max Polson, & Tanner Richey.

This means there are 6 openings for the 2020 travel. An informational flyer will be going out via Peachjar, which can reach many parents in the Roseburg School District.

Requirements include being in the 7th or 8th grade, have letters of recommendation from their teachers, willing to commit for two years to travel to Kuki City with the student delegation and then for the family to host a student in your home. The plan is to have the new complete group of students in January 2020.

** Submitted by Paul Whitworth, Director*





Thank you to these
Roseburg Sister Cities' Contributing
Businesses & Members:

Martha Scott

For providing the Community Room
at Linus Oakes Village for the
RSC Annual Meeting!



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



Please Join or 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 2021 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

