



The Bridge

January 2017

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

The President's Corner



Hisashiburi...long time no see,

Winter has us all burrowed away from the seasonal rain and frost here in Roseburg. I am happy to be another messenger of good news; spring is around the corner and 2017 is about to blossom! Roseburg Sister Cities is here welcoming you to venture out soon. Please enjoy this newsletter as reminder of all the good warmth on the horizon.

First, the board is launching a new series of planned social events centered on exploring Japanese cuisine and customs. Gatherings will explore preparing and enjoying specific dishes while learning new expressions and ways to share a laugh. Space will be limited so reserve your spot in advance.

Please keep up to date on Friendship Garden clean-up parties. We wish for everyone to voice ideas and engage their muscles to further maintain this mini-cultural heritage site just behind the Roseburg Branch of the Douglas County Library. Contribute to this important space and help maintain friendship and understanding in our community!

This year a delegation of students from Kuki-city will be arriving in Roseburg this coming July. Middle school age students from multiple area schools for the next several weeks are enrolling with the youth exchange program. The Japanese group will be in Roseburg for several days touring the local area. Members please

stay in touch to learn how you can attend the Welcome Dinner.

I do wish to announce our website is operational!!! Please connect to us directly at www.roseburgsistercities.org to explore all the programs with Roseburg Sister Cities. Links to all related social media hubs can be found here too. Thanks to funds granted from the Douglas County Cultural Coalition and the services of middle school delegation alumni, Drew Carson, to rebuild our presence on the web.

2016 was an amazing year. Youth ventured abroad to Kuki and Roseburg gave thanks with friends from Japan. I know many lives were impacted. Other notes of the year were big milestones with the passing of heavy hitters and big stars like Muhammad Ali and David Bowie. For us here with Roseburg Sister Cities, it is the same. I know many will miss Rick Pittman and Chris Bennett.

Thank you to all who maintain your annual dues. Your support keeps the bonds of friendship in an unquestionably good place. Hope to see you soon and enjoy the upcoming blossoms of spring,

Sincerely,

Thomas McGregor
President, Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.

Upcoming Events

Feb 4th 12:00 Celebration of Life for Chris Bennett at Glide Community Center

Feb 21st 5:30 Board Meeting at Berkshire Hathaway

Feb 25th 10:00 to 4:00 Reading Faire

Mar 1st Delegation applications due

Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.

P.O. Box 1643
Roseburg, OR 97470
www.roseburg-sister-cities.org
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

Debbie Fields 541-643-7824	Newsletter Co-Editors	Nancy Pittman 541-677-7382
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Condolences for Those Who Have Passed

In Remembrance Rick Pittman



Rick Pittman, 1932-2016, passed away peacefully in his sleep November 12th of Congestive Heart Failure. His wife, Nancy, and their three children were beside his bed at his passing. He and Nancy had lived in Japan for three years when Nancy taught American military children, and while there Rick became very fond of the country and its people. When they returned to the United States, it was only natural that they should want to join Roseburg Sister Cities. Rick was actively involved in RSC as a member for nine years. He will be missed.



Christina Bennett A Free Spirit



Our friend Chris Bennett passed away January 10th of heart disease. She became a member of RSC in 2011 when she first travelled to Japan as a member of the delegation. Since that time she was actively involved in the organization, freely giving of her time for anything that was asked of her. Her smile and free spirit was infectious and will

definitely be missed.

A Celebration of Life will be held on February 4th at the Glide Community Center from 12 – 4 p.m. It will include a potluck dinner with live music and dancing.



Condolences are also extended to RSC members Gail and Dan Withers on the passing of Gail's mother, Jessie Patterson on January 6th in Grants Pass. She was 91-½ years old. Jessie was a lifelong resident of Douglas County.

and from the other side of the ocean...



We were saddened to receive news that on December 12, 2016, Takashi Hirasawa, age 79, passed away in Kuki-city, Japan. The Hirasawa family has been actively involved with and supportive of Roseburg Sister Cities from early in the Middle School exchanges, with their

children participating in the exchanges and hosting. They hosted Mark and Nancy Anderson, chaperones with the Middle School Exchange, in 1991. Nancy has kept in touch with the family ever since and Mr. Hirasawa's daughter, Minako, indicated recently to Nancy that he had saved all of Nancy's letters all these years!

Janet and David Johnston met Mr. Hirasawa in 1995 on their first visit to Shobu. He visited them at their host family's home and translated for them, bringing liquor from his liquor store. A good time was shared by all with karaoke and conversation. Mr. Hirasawa had a great singing voice!

He told us he learned to speak English from listening to CNN on television after World War II. He had an extensive English vocabulary and enjoyed sharing his English skills to help with translating for the delegates. Many of our delegates over the years have expressed fond memories of conversing with him!

Mr. Hirasawa served as President of the Shobu-Roseburg Association from 2000-2005 and visited Roseburg with two delegations, staying with Bill and Lynette Roberts on his first visit and Harry and Kim Gandy on his second visit. He and his wife also hosted the following Roseburg delegates in their home:

- 2007 – Thelma Sayers
- 2008 – Jake and Jo Wanner
- 2011 – Bob and Becky Cotterell

Mr. Hirasawa is survived by his wife, Fumiko, two daughters, one son and five grandchildren. He had been hospitalized since suffering a stroke in August 2015 and complications thereof. There was a private service for just the family, but no funeral service was conducted in Kuki.

If you would like to send a sympathy card, their mailing address is:

Mrs Fumiko Hirasawa and family
295-1 Shobu-Cho
Kuki-shi, Saitama-Ken
346-1016 JAPAN



Welcome to Our New Board Members

Chie Furukawa

Chie moved to Roseburg in the summer of 2016, when she married Arthur Chaput. She connected with the Roseburg Sister Cities program almost immediately, and had a wonderful time with RSC members during the recent visit of the Kuki-city delegation.

Chie enjoys cooking, traveling, karaoke, and wine tasting. Her most recent work experience was as a buyer/merchandise analyst for Daiso Industry in Hiroshima, Japan.

Before that, Chie taught Japanese language at several U.S. universities, including Vanderbilt University (where she met Arthur!) and Portland State University. Chie's long-term goal is to work to maintain good Japan-U.S. relations; she sees her participation with the Sister City program as an excellent start towards that goal.

Steve Erickson

Steve has served as the Director of the Roseburg-Shobu Middle School Exchange Program traveling to Japan in 2005 with twenty-four students and hosting the following year in Roseburg. Having a longstanding interest in Japan and Asia, Steve previously lived in Japan where he studied Zen and Japanese carpentry.

After a career as a counselor with Legal Aid Services of Oregon and a hiking instructor with Umpqua Community College, Steve currently spends his time playing with a local Celtic band, studying with the Douglas County master gardener program, practicing Qigong daily (a form of Tai chi and often referred to as Chinese yoga), and enjoys culinary arts as well as being grounded in and enjoying/conserving the natural world. Steve has been a member of RSC since 2010.

Officers Elected

At the December board of directors meeting, board officers were elected. Returning officers are Thomas McGregor – President, Janet Johnston – Vice President, and Kevin Carson – treasurer. The secretary position remained vacant.

During the January board meeting, Debbie Fields was elected as board secretary. Also Gail Withers respectfully resigned her board position.



2017 Delegation to Japan

Applications are now being accepted to participate in the Roseburg Sister Cities 2017 Delegation to Japan. The delegation will leave Portland, OR on October 19th on a nonstop flight to Narita Japan, and return on a nonstop flight on October 28th.

The delegation will be spending several nights in the Kuki-city area with local host families and participating in local activities. A three day/two night bus trip to the Kusatsu and Shiga-Kogan areas is also planned. Kusatsu is a well known onsen "hot springs" area in the mountains of Gunma prefecture, while Shiga-Kogen is a scenic area in the Nagano prefecture, where the 1998 Winter Olympics were held. The delegation will be limited to a maximum of 20 delegates. Applications are due by March 1st and may be obtained from Janet Johnston or Kevin Carson, co-chairs for the delegation.

For additional information or details contact:
Janet Johnston – janetsmail77@gmail.com 541-430-2885
Kevin Carson – kdcarson54@gmail.com 541-680-9640

~submitted by Janet Johnston~

Annual Dinner 2016

The annual dinner was held Sunday November 6th at Linus Oakes Community Room, which had been reserved by member Martha Scott who resides there. The tables were arranged and tablecloths placed by Linus Oakes personnel.

Decorating committee chairman Barbara Iwata and helpers Joanie Chambers, Marliene Swanson, and Yuki Taylor, used gourds from Jon and Jeannie Burpee's garden as well as hydrangeas and nandinas to decorate the tables. Treasurer Kevin Carson accepted 2017 membership dues while Debbie Fields provided each person with a name tag and raffle ticket. Members brought a variety of delicious potluck dishes and dinner started about 4:30 pm.

President Thomas McGregor ran the business meeting after introducing guests including his three month old daughter Ginger. Retiring board members Jon Burpee and Brad Chapman were thanked for their service. Newly nominated board members Steve Erickson, Chie Furukawa, and Gail Withers were unanimously elected for a two year term along with returning board members Debbie Fields, Thomas McGregor, and Nancy Pittman.

Students who visited Japan in July could not attend to report on their visit so Paul Whitworth, RSC board member and leader for the Roseburg Kuki Student Exchange, gave an informative slide presentation. He shared his experiences in Japan as well as those of the middle school students. He later wrote an article for the local VERVE magazine about the July trip which will be in publication this month, January 2017.

Table agendas were made by Kevin Carson who also led the Shime. HD Honscheid led the Kompai. Christine Bennett was chairman of clean up. Helping her were Akiyo Riggs, Chie Furukawa, Arthur Chaput, Art and Marliene Swanson, Susie Armstrong, Martha Scott, Una Honscheid and Nancy Pittman.

The evening, co-chaired by Nancy Pittman and Marliene Swanson, was said to have been a success.

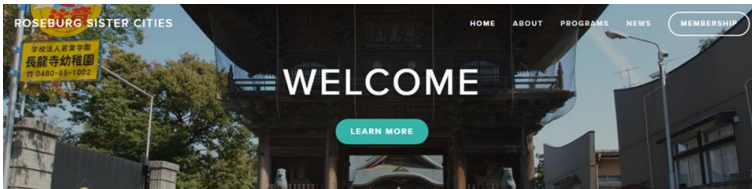
Annual dinner photos continued on next page

RSC Annual Dinner Photos



RSC Launches New Website

Roseburg Sister Cities has a beautiful new website at roseburgsistercities.org that is up and running. It highlights the two aspects of our program; the adult and the middle school exchange programs. One can read about the history of the program, view photos of recent delegation trips, explore a map of Kuki and Japan, download membership or delegate forms, check out newsletters, and much more. Take a look at it now, but be sure to check back because it is still a work in progress and more information and links will be added. Here is the look at the new Welcome page:



Welcome to Roseburg Sister Cities

Roseburg Sister Cities promotes friendship and understanding between Roseburg, Oregon, USA and Kuki City, Japan. By sharing our cultures, we can celebrate our similarities, enjoy our differences, and learn from one another.

~submitted by Kevin Carson~

Reading Faire

The annual Reading Faire (also called Celebration of Literacy) is scheduled for February 25th from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. RSC booth organizers Marliene Swanson and Akiyo Riggs are in need of volunteers for two hour shifts to assist in making headbands and other planned activities.

Contact Marliene matam@q.com or Akiyo akiriggs@hotmail.com to volunteer to help with the festivities.

RSC Book Group

The Roseburg Sister Cities book group meets approximately four times a year. The next meeting will be on March 15th, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. Our meetings are usually held at the Berkshire Hathaway office on Mulholland Drive. Our book under discussion will be "Remains of the Day" by Kazuo Ishiguro.

We have two more books on our list planned for June and September. They are "Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage" by Haruki Murakami, and "Snow Falling on Cedars" by David Guterson.

We welcome anyone who wants to join us, though it helps if you have read the book! We also are always looking for suggestions for future reads. Our guidelines are simple: the book needs to have some passing relevance to Japan - author, location, and/or characters. If interested, please contact Janet Johnston 541-430-2885 for further information about the next meeting.

~submitted by Una Honscheid~

Fundraising Planned

Fundraising was discussed at the December board meeting. Debbie Fields and Chie Furukawa agreed to chair a fundraising effort for this spring. The first activity was the selling of laser etched magnetic name tags as shown below to our members. The first order is almost ready to send to the vendor and delivery will occur soon after. We are still taking orders but will need several tags ordered before presenting the second batch to the vendor for processing.



An additional fundraising activity being planned is a yard sale which will be held at the home of Debbie Fields in May. The date will not be finalized until much closer to the event. Weather is a factor that will determine scheduling. We are requesting everyone save all those treasures that you no longer have a need or room for to donate to the sale. Remember donations are tax deductible!!

Anyone interested in assisting with this fundraising effort contact Debbie Fields 541-643-7824.

2018 Delegation Planning

Delegation planning is under way for the 2018 visit by our friends from Japan. Many volunteers are needed to make the next visit a success. We need volunteers for all aspects of planning, from the Welcome Dinner to the Bus Tour to the Farewell Dinner. Contact Debbie Fields as soon as possible to let us know how you can help.

Delegation 2016

October 5th – a very exciting day for six Roseburg Sister Cities members. We were headed to Portland to meet our friends from Kuki-city who were arriving the very next day!



We had much work to do...



...and then they were here!!!

We welcomed them with trip bags telling of the events we had planned for them. Then after a long bus trip complete with an excellent lunch planned by Larry and Loie Concannon, we were all greeted at Legion Field by the delegates' host families, Tyler Jones from KEZI television, and American Legion baseball dignitaries. It was an exciting time filled with love.



Then the delegates headed home with their host families and RSC members began preparations for the Welcome Dinner later that evening at the Roseburg Country Club.

Welcome Dinner

Welcome Dinner 2016 was held at the Roseburg Country Club in lovely room decorated beautifully by Chairpersons Gail and Dan Withers and Kathy and Rick Randall.

Guests included Councilman Tom Ryan, RSC officers and board members, the Roseburg-Kuki delegation leader Shizue Komine and delegates, the RSC planning committee, and all our wonderful RSC membership!



After opening remarks and introductions of the delegates by their host families, the attendees were treated to a prime rib feast, a true culinary treat.



Then we were all entertained...



A wonderful evening was had by all and a huge thanks again to the Welcome Dinner chairpersons!

City Day

Friday October 7th dawned on a day filled with fun. It was "City Day" which is the day we celebrate the City of Roseburg and its relationship with Kuki-city. David Johnston, chairman of this day, started out with the group at the Douglas County Library. We walked on to City Hall, the Fire Department, and the Police Department where we were treated to talks about the City, tour of the fire station and fire truck, and canine demonstrations from the Police Department. Delegates were given a Roseburg pin and police cap.



After a wonderful lunch at Alexander's, the group boarded the bus and headed to Umpqua Community College where we toured the campus and visited the RSC cherry tree planted there. We then stopped at Winchester Dam enroute to the Umpqua Valley Arts Center. At the Art Center we visited additional cherry trees planted there, as well as many beautiful art pieces and a wool spinning demo.



Then the silliness began...



After showing off their creations, our friends went home with their hosts to enjoy a fun filled weekend with their home stay families. Thanks to David Johnston, Kevin Carson, and Katherine Elisar for planning this fun day.

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## Farewell Thanksgiving Dinner

Since our visitors arrived in the fall, which they had never done before, a Thanksgiving Farewell Potluck Dinner was planned. It was held Monday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> at The Hucrest Community Church of God from 5:30 - 8:30 with 67 people attending. Co-chairs were Nancy Pittman and Marliene Swanson.

The location was excellent and the tables were decorated with colored tablecloths, orange, yellow, and gold, and lovely center pieces of daisies and greens made by Gail Withers. The paper plates and napkins had Thanksgiving designs and fall colors. Gail and church staff assisted in the set up. Gourds from the garden of Jeannie Burpee were also used in decorating.



Afternoon preparation started at 4:00 pm. Debbie Fields, Marliene Swanson, and Nancy Pittman brought cooked turkeys from home and Debbie made delicious gravy from the turkey drippings. Two hams were also served. There were many last minute preparations and volunteers who pitched in and helped were Gail and Dan Withers, Kathy and Rick Randoll, Martha Scott, Chris Bennett, and Joanie and Bruce Chambers. Bruce, even at the last minute, had to go purchase more cornstarch for the gravy! Many of those same people helped with clean up plus Art Swanson, Roy Riggs, David Sayers, Akiyo Riggs and Chie Furukawa.

David Johnston was the M.C. for the evening with Akiyo Riggs and Chie Furukawa as interpreters. Since our visitors did not know the history of the first Thanksgiving, David shared the story and had a colorful handout for each to keep. Debbie demonstrated turkey carving, Pastor Jon Nutter and his wife Kimber were introduced, and the pastor said the blessing.



The menu consisted of turkey, ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, sweet potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce, vegetable dishes, salads, rolls and butter, and a variety of delicious desserts.



After eating, the delegates stood with their host families and told about the interesting experiences they had had while visiting here.



The evening was a great success.

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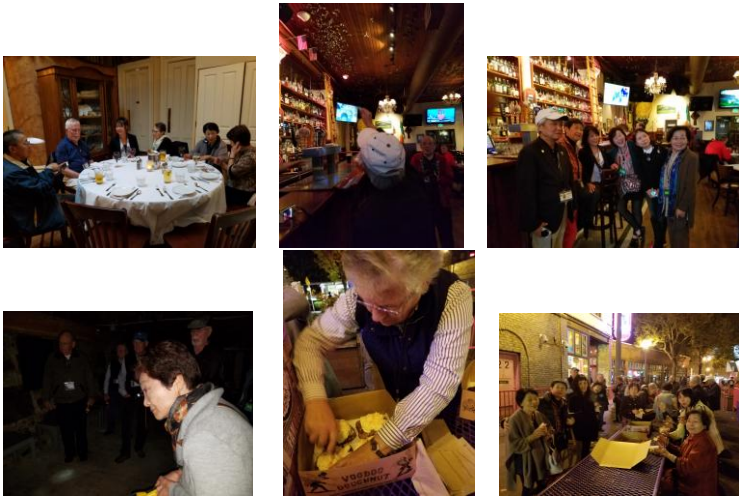

Bus Trip

On Tuesday October 11th, the group left Roseburg on the final leg of their event-filled visit to Roseburg. We were headed to Portland to experience all that makes Portland weird! There were so many places planned to visit that I cannot tell about everything in this newsletter so will show most of the places visited in pictures.

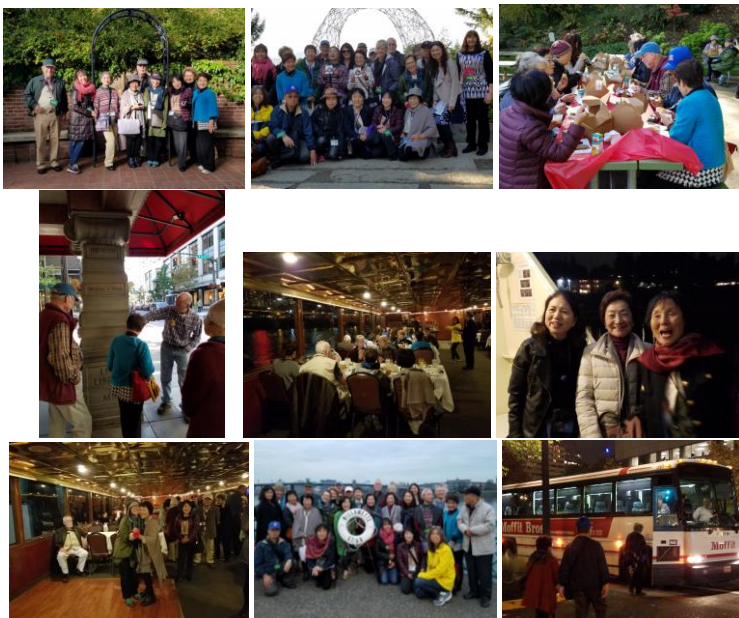
Our first stop was at Nike Headquarters where we had lunch and tour of the grounds by our host Greg Johnston, son of Janet and David.



After checking into the hotel we headed for an evening of interesting sights and sounds. Dinner at Kell's Irish Pub, Underground Tours, and late night snack at Voodoo Doughnuts! Then back to the hotel.



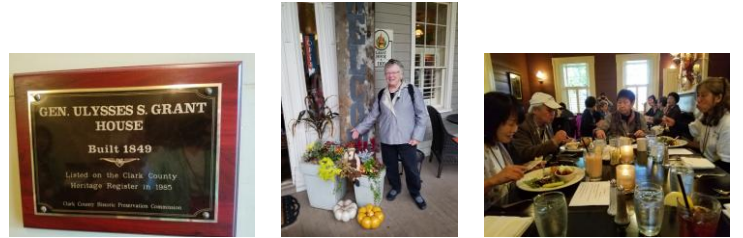
Day 2 found us headed to the International Rose Garden, Japanese Garden, Powell's Books, Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, and lastly a dinner cruise on the Willamette River.



Day 3 was another full day of fun and interesting places to go. We started at the Pendleton Woolen Mill in Washougal, Washington then headed to Fort Vancouver and Pearson Air Museum to learn some local history.



Lunch was served in Fort Vancouver at the historic Grant House with yummy food and great atmosphere.



We then visited the Japanese Consulate where we were met by the Consul General and some of his staff.



Dinner was served at the Old Spaghetti Factory where we were treated to a view of the river, enjoyed time with friends and watched our cruise ship go by. Our thanks go to a very generous anonymous donor who provided this last meal for us.



Then we headed back to the hotel to get everyone packed and ready to go to the airport the next morning. It was a bittersweet ending to a fabulous trip. We extend our gratitude to Jeannie Burpee and Debbie Fields for their hard work as chairpersons for the trip. We are much appreciative.

The final morning in Portland became quite the adventure as the delegates' flight was cancelled due to mechanical issues but that is a story for another day. We were fortunate to be able to keep them with us to enjoy an extra day of friendship and understanding.



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



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www.facebook.com/RoseburgSisterCities
[webpage at roseburgsistercities.org](http://webpage.at.roseburgsistercities.org)

- ... *Volunteers needed for 2018 Delegation visit*
- ...*Roseburg Delegation visit to Japan October 21st - 28th, 2017*
- ...*Delegation application due March 1st*