



# The Bridge

May 2019

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

**Co-Editors**  
Debbie Fields 541-643-7824  
Nancy Pittman 541-677-7382

## The President's Corner



Greetings,

Summer is heating up and so is the activity with Roseburg Sister Cities. I invite you to spend a moment with this action-packed newsletter and find a way to join the fun!

First, I am most pleased to announce that the Mayor of Kuki City will be visiting this summer! On July 29<sup>th</sup> we are hopeful to arrange a 'happy hour' type meet and greet. Stay tuned to Facebook for up-to-date information. The mayor and his staff will be touring many businesses and sites for the few days they are in the Umpqua.

Next, the middle school students from Kuki City will be here this summer! The parents have done an amazing job putting together an event list for them. We are very happy to see this wonderful partnership continue with such strength and vitality. I am sure many memories will be made among these youth to behold for years to come.

You can say hello to our middle school guests at Music on the Half Shell on July 30<sup>th</sup>. We will also be hosting a lunch event for them that week. Please contact us if you wish to learn more.

I also wish to mention the great group of Roseburg folks who are preparing for travel to Japan this October. Everyone in our city should be proud of these delegates that will be representing us abroad. I want to personally give them a word of gratitude for taking their time to help maintain the bonds of friendship and understanding with our neighbor across the Pacific. The delegation trips are a major factor in the continued warmth that radiates between our cities.

Sincerely,

Thomas McGregor  
President, Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.



## Calendar of Events

**May 13<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm** Board of Directors Meeting at Phoenix School

**May 17<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am** Friendship Garden Clean-up

**May 18<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am** Friendship Garden Clean-up

**May 31<sup>st</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup>** RSC Yard Sale at Debbie Fields' home

**June 2<sup>nd</sup> 3:00 pm** 2019 Adult Delegation meeting at UCC

**July 17<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm** Book Club meets at Berkshire Hathaway

**July 23<sup>th</sup> – Aug 1** Middle School Delegation here from Japan

**July 29<sup>th</sup> – Aug 1** Kuki City Mayor and dignitaries visit Roseburg

**September** Language classes for 2019 Adult Delegation. Dates TBD

**October 17 – 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

## Middle School News

Spring brings flowers and that means it is time for the Kuki Team's flower basket fundraiser. Until about July 1st, you can purchase a coupon for \$20 from Janet Johnston 541-430-2885 or Paul Whitworth 541-672-6303 towards any hanging basket at the Plant Warehouse at the Garden Valley Mall. When you use a coupon, the students get \$5 towards hosting the student group from Kuki when they visit in July.

The Mercy Foundation continues to support our group through their "Dollars for Doers" program. The program pairs a Mercy employee with a community program. Stacey Fisher whose son, Payton, is currently with the Kuki team is our sponsor. Mercy gives us a generous donation twice per year. We receive each check at a breakfast or lunch event. At those times, we give a small presentation that includes one or two of our Team members.

The Kuki Team began 2019 by adding many new members bringing the total to twenty, which is the maximum we take. We had many applications and had to turn away some very good candidates. I hope we see them back next year.



The first event for our new group was hosting the Valentine's dance at Joseph Lane Middle School. The dance was a good fundraiser.

Our group now meets about every three weeks in order to plan for our hosting this July. Our friends from Kuki will be in Roseburg from July 23rd until August 1st. We will do some familiar events such as the jet boats in Grants Pass and visiting the coast. Since half of our group comes from the Glide School District, our Team will spend more time showing our friends what the Glide area has to offer. Our visitation goal is to foster interaction. This goal extends beyond the visitor and host spending time together, to getting all of the students to interact more. Why not gain a few more friends? Hosting often takes a back seat to the actual travel to Japan but involves our entire families, so I believe it will be a surprisingly fun adventure for everyone.

Follow the Kuki Team on Facebook at *Roseburg Kuki Student Exchange*.

**\*\*\*submitted by Paul Whitworth, Director\*\*\***



## 2019 Adult Delegation to Japan

Roseburg Sister Cities will send an adult delegation to Japan in October 2019. The group will fly out of Portland on October 18<sup>th</sup> and return October 26<sup>th</sup>. This year's delegation will be a full group of 20 made up of:

Kevin Carson	Skyler Abel
Katherine Elisar	Jon Burpee
Janet Johnston	Jeannie Burpee
Roy Riggs	Sheila Cox
David Johnston	Linda Fisher Fowler
Nancy Pittman	Nancy Wolgamott
Debbie Fields	Charlotte Carter
Joanie Chambers	Rick Sohn
Beverly Cole	Jacky Hagan Sohn
Martha Scott	Suzi Armstrong

While the final details are still being completed in Japan, the itinerary includes delegates spending the weekend with their host families and attending a welcome reception for the group. Another day will be spent in Kuki visiting City Hall and the always popular Choryuji Temple Kindergarten. We will then depart Kuki on a bus trip to the beautiful Mt. Fuji area; stopping first in the Shizuoka Prefecture, the Suruga Bay Ferry, and Dogashima Hot Spring. Then we will continue on to the Mt. Fuji area, the Mishima Sky Walk, experience the art of parquetry, the Fujisan hot spring, and Kawaguchi Lake. Returning to Kuki, we will enjoy a papermaking experience and a farewell event. It is sure to be another memorable trip!

We are putting together the final profiles to send to Japan and our Japanese friends will work on their side to identify host families and complete the final preparations for the bus trip and activities. Our delegates have attended one planning meeting to get acquainted and learn some general information about the trip. Two more meetings are scheduled; one in June to learn more of the culture and customs in Japan and another in September to finalize their travel preparations. A Japanese language class to learn basic skills will also be held starting in September.

**\*\*\*submitted by Kevin Carson\*\*\***



***Do not forget the beautiful flower baskets available for purchase. Five dollars of the total cost of each basket goes to the Middle School group for hosting and travelling to Japan. Contact Paul Whitworth or Janet Johnston for coupons.***

## Successful Reading Fair Booth

The 2019 Reading Fair was held at the Douglas County Fair Grounds Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> and Roseburg Sister Cities hosted a booth. Akiyo Riggs and Marliene Swanson were in charge of the booth, and supervised the fifteen very capable volunteers that Nancy Pittman had contacted. Marliene prepared 200 headbands and 200 bookmarks in advance and Akiyo brought in table coverings, calligraphy supplies, and charts to complete the projects.

The children visiting the booth drew a rising sun on their headbands and wrote their names in English on the book marks. Our Japanese helpers writing the names in Katakana were Akiyo, Faye Andrews, Yumi Castle, and students, Sarara Shirakawa (Glide Rotary Exchange Student) and Steen and Boon Olson. Other volunteers at the booth were students Nichole Kloha, Savanha Kempton, Salina Herrera, Anjel Csernak, and adults Connie Kloha, Tracy Csernak, Maureen Williams, Jo Ann Pico, Bruce Chambers, and HD Honscheid.



Paul Whitworth, RSC Board Member, provided informational posters which explained the history of the RSC and Student Exchange programs, and Kevin Carson and wife, Katherine Elisar, provided brochures and cards giving information on how to join our organization. On display were a variety of Japanese language children's literature books donated by Gregg and Izumi Swanson, son and daughter-in-law of Art Swanson. Those books will be stored for future RSC events.

This was another successful community outreach to advertise our story and stimulate interest in RSC. It could not have happened without the support of our members, so we thank those who made time in their busy schedules and shared their talents. The student helpers were invaluable in implementing our program and we look forward to their continued involvement.

*\*Submitted by Marliene Swanson and Nancy Pittman\**



## B.R.A.V.E. World

One way of stopping bullying before it starts is to increase understanding of those who are different from us. That was the goal of B.R.A.V.E. World, a program organized and presented on March 18 at JoLane Middle School by RHS freshman Marin Gray, one of our RSC members. B.R.A.V.E. stands for "Building Respect and Values for Everyone". "People who are culturally different are often the target of bullying in schools because of fear and misunderstanding of those differences," said Marin. Marin gathered community members from 17 countries to put on an international tabletop fair at which students could interact with international participants and be shown items from their cultures.



This was followed by an assembly in which Marin interviewed the international participants about their cultures, values, and experiences of assimilating into our culture. They also took questions from students in the audience. Representing Japan were our own members Faye Andrews, Nancy Pittman, Janet Johnston, Akiyo Riggs and Rotary exchange student Sarara Shirakawa. Marin has traveled to 15 countries, and she wanted to bring her peers a taste of the understanding one gains through experiencing other cultures and being the one who is different.



## Friendship Garden Clean-up

A renewed interest by the City of Roseburg in keeping the Roseburg Sister Cities Friendship Garden in its current location behind the City Library has prompted the scheduling of May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> as clean-up days at the garden. We will meet at the garden at 8:00 a.m. on each day and will spend three hours working to beautify the Friendship Garden once again.

Tracy Pope, horticulturist for the City of Roseburg, will supervise and get the group started on Friday. Others (with day jobs, in school, etc.) can join us on Saturday. We will work about three hours each day.

On Friday May 17<sup>th</sup> we will be removing large plants, pulling weeds, planting new large plants, placing a barrier, placing soil and raking it smooth.

On Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> attention will be turned to finishing the raking, planting small and medium plants, and installing bark rock.

Remember to bring your own gloves and favorite gardening tools well marked. This initial event will not be "small child friendly".



## Book Club News



The Roseburg Sister Cities Book Club met on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 and discussed the book 'Pachinko'. Anne Soder provided the summary below for the newsletter:

*Pachinko, by Min Jin Lee, is a multi-generational story of family with Korean roots living in Japan. It touches on many subjects from arranged marriages, to Christianity in Japan prior to WWII, to prejudice against Koreans. It was reviewed as "a sweeping saga of exceptional people in exile from a homeland they never knew" and "gripping from start to finish, crossing cultures and generations with breathtaking power". However, the members of the book club found it to be scattered and not firmly rooted in its place, time, and culture. The initial chapters were well done, but then the character development became weak, and the plot almost non-existent at times. For a book using the stream of history as a backdrop, there was almost no specific context and interesting events were hardly explored. It did give an interesting*

*perspective on Japan from the point of view of Korean immigrants, but missed many opportunities for greatness.*

The next book selection is 'The Brothers' by Lesley Downer (The Hidden World of Japan's Richest Family - Tsutsumi) published in 1994. Per the book flap - "It chronicles, what some say, is Japan's greatest business dynasty. Theirs is the ultimate rags-to-riches story, a drama of cutthroat business intrigue and ties of honor, family rivalry, and the trials of wives and concubines, set against the turbulent background of Japan in the twentieth century."

The RSC Book Club will next be meeting on Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at the Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Real Estate Professionals office to review the above book.

Please contact Janet Johnston, 541-430-2885 for further information or to be placed on the email list for the Book Club and any future changes to meeting schedule.

The Book Club chooses reading selections of books with a Japanese connection and meets 4-6 times a year to review these selections. We are always looking for new members and would be happy to have you join us!

**\*\*Submitted by Janet Johnston and Una Honscheid\*\***



## Your 2019 Board at Work

The Board of Directors has several items right now drawing our attention. We are excited to announce that the Friendship Garden Clean-up and Restoration is moving forward this coming weekend and we will once again be able to visit the garden with future Kuki delegates with pride. We need all of our members' assistance to get this task completed. Please consider volunteering.

RSC adult members will be planning a lunch for the Kuki Middle School Delegation when they visit us in July.

In addition to the Middle School students arriving in July, we would like to announce that the Kuki City Mayor, Shuichi Umeda, will also be visiting Roseburg during this same time. A delegation of approximately five persons will arrive on July 29<sup>th</sup> and depart on August 1<sup>st</sup>, to coincide with the Middle School Delegation visit. A meet and greet event is being planned so all RSC members will have the opportunity to meet Mayor Umeda. Stay tuned for the details of that event.

Board members are also working to find permanent storage for all the treasures that RSC owns. The previous location at Wells Fargo Bank downtown branch was closed and we had to move our items from that location. We procured a temporary storage location at the Roseburg Library but need to have our items removed by September 1<sup>st</sup>. The hunt continues for a home for our items and historical records.



## Yard Sale Fundraiser

RSC has scheduled a yard sale for May 31 – June 1 at the home of Debbie Fields, 4132 Carnes Road in Green. Donations are now being accepted for our sale. Contact Debbie at 541-643-7824 to schedule a drop off time.

We will need volunteers to help set up, sell, and take down the sale at the end of the day on Saturday. Also contact Debbie if you can help with those tasks.

Additionally, orders are still being taken for permanent name tags. The cost is \$14.95 and will include your name in English and Katakana. The tags are plastic and have magnetic backs. Contact Debbie or email her at [debfields54@gmail.com](mailto:debfields54@gmail.com) to order yours now.

### Newsletter Needs New Volunteers

Debbie Fields and Nancy Pittman are ready for retirement as editors of the RSC newsletter. We have been doing this job for several years and are ready to pass the baton to someone else.

The job entails soliciting articles and information to write some of the articles, putting the articles and pictures together on the computer, editing before publication, and then having copies printed at Workmates for distribution around town.

If this is something you may be interested in doing, contact Debbie 541-643-7824 or Nancy 541-677-7382 for more information.

## 2020 Delegation Planning

Co-chairpersons for the 2020 Delegation visit to Roseburg are Debbie Fields and Janet Johnston. We are currently soliciting assistance in planning the events for this next visit from our Kuki friends. If you would like to be involved in this exciting adventure contact one of us for more information and to volunteer. Debbie 541-643-7824 and Janet 541-430-2885.



## Japanese Culinary Delights

**Mochi(餅)** is a Japanese rice cake which is delicious. There are so many types of Mochi such as Sakura Mochi, Matcha Mochi, Mochi ice-cream and the most popular is Mochi with red bean. In Japan it is traditionally made in a ceremony called Mochitsuki. While also eaten year-round, mochi is a traditional food for the Japanese New Year and is commonly sold and eaten during that time.

**Shabu-shabu(しゃぶしゃぶ)** Shabu-shabu is a Japanese nabemono hotpot dish of thinly sliced meat and vegetables boiled in water. The term is onomatopoeic, derived from the sound emitted when the ingredients are stirred in the cooking pot and served with dipping sauces. The food is cooked piece by piece by the diner at the table. Shabu-Shabu was introduced in Japan in the 20th century with the opening of the restaurant "Suehiro" in Osaka (大阪), where the name was invented.

**Takoyaki(たこ焼き)** is Japanese octopus cake. It is normally served with fried fish, Takoyaki Sauce and chopped green onion. You can make your own Takoyaki with a Takoyaki machine, but in Japanese restaurants. Takoyaki was first popularized in Osaka (大阪), where a street vendor named Tomekichi Endo is credited with its invention in 1935.

**Soba(蕎麦)** Soba noodles are made from buckwheat, so you can have yellow, gray or green colors. Soba noodles are served either chilled with a dipping sauce, or in hot broth as a noodle soup. You can eat it with some toppings or Yakisoba (焼きそば: fried soba) which taste amazing. The tradition of eating soba arose in the Edo period (1603-1868).



***Please Join or Renew RSC Membership!***

New Membership  Renew Membership (Tax Deductible 503-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 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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***webpage at roseburgsistercities.org***

- *May 31 – June 1 RSC yard sale*
- *Middle School delegation visits July 23 – Aug 1.*
- *Delegation to Japan October 18 – 26, 2019.*