



The Bridge

July 2016

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

The President's Corner



Greetings,

Roseburg is starting to cook with summer heat finally upon us and Roseburg Sister Cities is warming up for our upcoming delegations. Please enjoy this newsletter as a taste of all about to happen.

I do wish to announce our website will be operational by this coming fall as we have contracted with Drew Carson, a middle school delegation alumni, to rebuild our presence on the web. I appreciate everyone's patience with our absence from www.roseburgsistercities.org but I assure you the new site will be worth the wait! Don't forget you can always 'Like' us on Facebook and virtually stay in touch there.

Community middle school students are ready to venture to Kuki City! In mid-July, over a dozen of our country's friendliest young folks will spend several days in Japan making friends and touring sites. A big thank you to all the parents involved and supporting the bond with our friends abroad.

This year's first Friendship Garden clean-up party occurred in June and we will have more events soon to reorganize the space in coming months. Feel free to contact us if you would like to be a part of revitalizing this space behind the Douglas County Library.

Also, please do not forget that a delegation from Kuki-city will be arriving in Roseburg this coming October. This is a change from the traditional June arrival but our friends are excited to experience a change of season. The group will be in Roseburg for several days and tour the Portland area. I assure you the Welcome Dinner on October 6th is something you will not want to miss.

Hope to see you soon and please have a safe summer!

Sincerely,

Thomas McGregor
President, Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.



News Flash

The Roseburg-Kuki Association has made a suggestion to the Roseburg Sister Cities members for their visit in October. Their special request is that we all agree to forego the traditional practice of giving omiyage (gifts) to each other. They felt that even though it is a wonderful gesture, it also means that they often times have to buy a second suitcase for their return home to hold all the much appreciated gifts that they receive, which can be costly.

The RSC board agreed that this can sometimes be an added burden and embraced this suggestion from our Japanese friends. We have decided between the two groups that instead of gifts, we would exchange business cards.

So be prepared to exchange business cards instead of omiyage. One board member suggested that we include our photo on the cards which we all thought was a great idea.

Thank you all for understanding the need to make this change.

Upcoming Events

Oct 6th -14th Our Japanese friends will be here!!

Oct 6th Welcome Dinner

Oct 10th Farewell Dinner

Oct 11th – 14th 3 day bus tour

Oct 14th – Delegates fly home

Nov 6th – Annual Dinner

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: Vacant **Treasurer:** Kevin Carson

Other Board Members

Jon Burpee, Brad Chapman, Debbie Fields, Andrea Gray, Connie Kloha, Nancy Pittman, Akiyo Riggs, Paul Whitworth, Nick Williams

Delegation Members and Host Families

We thought you would all like to know who is coming to visit in October. Janet Johnston is gathering the list of host families who are graciously stepping up to host our Japanese friends and that information will be forthcoming soon.

Delegates

Shizue Komine (Delegation Leader)
Sachiko Iwai
Yoshie Arai
Chizuko Tsuboi
Utako Morisawa
Shinichi Imamura
Nobuko Imamura
Shoichi Yamada
Yoshiko Yamada
Tsutomu Yamada
Ginko Yamada
Kiyoe Iijima
Etsuko Okano
Chieko Hishinuma
Sanae Kawamoto

The delegates that are new to our area include Kiyoe Iijima, Etsuko Okano, and Chieko Hishinuma. Please be sure to give them a big first time welcome to Roseburg when you see them. Some of the delegates have also decided to extend their stay in the United States. They are Shoichi and Yoshiko Yamada and Sanae Kawamoto.

Help Needed

As many of you know, planning a visit from our friends in Japan takes lots of time and the effort of many people. So we are asking you all for your help as the planning team is busily preparing for the October visit.

The planning team is as follows:

Chairman – Debbie Fields
Host Families – Janet Johnston
Translators – Akiyo Riggs
Budget – Kevin Carson
Airport Pickup – Larry and Loie Concannon
Welcome Dinner – Dan and Gail Withers and Rick and Kathy Randol
City Day – David Johnston
Farewell Dinner – Nancy Pittman and Marliene Swanson
Travel/Gift Bags – Nick and Dixie Williams
Bus Trip – Debbie Fields and Jeannie Burpee
Snacks – Connie Kloha and Diana Brown

Here are suggestions for how you can help out this October:

- ~Pay for a Welcome Dinner meal for a delegate (\$35.00)
- ~Donate pumpkins for our pumpkin carving activity
- ~Purchase a turkey for the Farewell Dinner
- ~Make and share your favorite Thanksgiving dish at the Farewell Dinner
- ~Donate cash towards the travel bags and needs for the bus trip
- ~ Go with us on the 3 day bus trip
- ~Help with transportation needs
- ~Volunteer to assist with the planned activities
- ~Cash donation to be used as needed.

If you would like to make a donation and/or assist with any of these events contact Debbie Fields 541-643-7824 or debfields54@gmail.com.

Delegation to Tour Portland

Jeannie Burpee and Debbie Fields recently made an advance planning trip to Portland to size up the places we will be going to and set an itinerary for the traditional bus tour. Let me tell you, this trip is going to be fun!

We are looking for members who want to join us for three fun filled days spent with our friends from Japan. The dates are October 11th - 14th. The cost of the trip is \$525.00 and is all inclusive. A deposit of \$250.00 is required by August 15th with the balance due by October 1st.

The first day of our adventure will include either the Woodburn Outlet Stores or a visit to the Nike Campus, dinner at Kel's Irish Pub, Portland Underground Tour, and a sweet treat to finish off the evening.

The second day will see us visiting the Rose Garden and Japanese Garden, Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI), dinner cruise on the Willamette, and maybe more surprises.



Our last tour day will include a tour of the Pendleton Woolen Mills, Fort Vancouver, and a visit to the Consul General's office, then dinner at The Old Spaghetti Factory.

Our home during this time will be the Embassy Suites at the airport where we will be having breakfast each morning.

On our final morning in Portland we will see the delegation to the airport and bid final good-byes before heading back to Roseburg.

Within the next week, a more detailed itinerary will be sent out by email to further help in your decision to join us.

Merger with Middle School

At the March board of directors meeting it was decided to incorporate the adult and middle school groups into one organization. This decision was made to facilitate the use of the RSC non-profit status to help the Middle School group and also to promote more continued interaction between the groups.

The board felt that it would also bring the two groups together to work towards a common goal of keeping the Middle School students and their parents active in the organization long after the trip to Japan that the kids experience. With the RSC membership waning in the past few years (currently 25 families and 10 singles), this will be an opportunity to increase membership so it becomes a win-win situation for everyone!



Preparing Garden for Visitors

Early Saturday morning, June 18th, five RSC members showed up at the Friendship Garden behind the Douglas County Library to begin getting it weeded and tidied, in preparation for the visitation of the Japanese delegates this fall. The five gardeners were Kevin Carson, Akiyo and Jon Riggs, Nancy Pittman, and Thomas McGregor.



The garden had been neglected for about two years, while a new agreement was being transacted between Roseburg Sister Cities and Douglas County, and it definitely looked like it. Tall weeds were throughout all the beds. With hoes, shovels, and clippers in hand, the five began at the entry way to the garden and slowly continued on. The trash was loaded in buckets and wheelbarrows and dumped into Jon's pickup truck. It was noticed that the county had gotten rid of the bamboo that had been spreading vigorously, so that area looked a bit bare, but the rest of the garden was full of weeds. After about three hours, Jon's pickup was full so the group stopped working. It was perfect timing, for soon after that the rain came pouring down.



There is much more to be done there, and more work parties will be needed in order to get the garden ready for the visit by our Japanese friends.

Book Club Members Joined by Sumiko

The Japan Book Club met at the home of Anne Soder to discuss "The Pillow Book" by Sei Shonagon, written around 1000 A.D. We were privileged to have Sumiko Komatsu from Kuki-city join us. She had read "Pillow Book" in school and it was, we gathered, rather like reading Chaucer in English - very old fashioned language and not easy to understand. Sumiko had obtained a copy in English and had read it so that she could better answer our questions and respond to our comments. We had a very lively and interesting discussion of the book itself and of the customs of Japan a thousand years ago.

Our next book on the list for discussion is "The Master of Go" by Yasunari Kawabata. We don't yet have a date scheduled for our meeting, but when that information is available it can be obtained from Janet Johnston 541-430-2885.

We are happy to welcome anyone who is interested to our group. We generally meet on Wednesday, at 6:30pm, though the date is random.

~submitted by Una Honscheid~

Komatsus Visit Roseburg A Pizza Gathering

Visitors from Japan, Sumiko and Ryu Komatsu, were warmly greeted by about thirty-five RSC members, when a pizza party was held in their honor at Round Table Pizza, Sunday, May 29th from 4:00 – 6:30 pm. All attending had a chance to visit with the two of them, enjoying the return of Sumiko, and for some, a first time visit with her husband. It was a very nice event enjoyed by everyone. After the party, the Komatsus were invited to Andrea and Jason Gray's home for dessert.



Sumiko and Ryu had already spent two weeks with Yuki and Wally Taylor who had taken them to Nevada. Wally was raised in Nevada and his brother and sister still live there. The family farm is in a small town called Lund. There, Sumiko and Ryu were able to see cattle being branded by cowboys, which was a new and fun experience for them, and Wally and Ryu were able to ride farm horses. Sumiko enjoyed showing the Nevada pictures to everyone, which Ryu had taken, and the folks there at Round Table Pizza enjoyed seeing them.



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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- ... Garden Clean-up Day will be announced soon
- ...Delegation visit October 6th - 14th, 2016
- ...Bus Trip Deposit Due August 15th