



The Bridge

March 2016

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

The President's Corner



Greetings,

The hills of Roseburg are green with splashes of white and pink from blossoming trees. Many activities are ready to blossom with Roseburg Sister Cities as well. Please read this newsletter and mark your calendars for all the upcoming events.

Annual delegations are preparing with our friends from Kuki-city. Roseburg middle school students will venture to Kuki-city this August. The parents involved are doing an excellent job preparing their junior delegates. A dance fundraiser at Jo Lane Middle School was held last month to great success. Great job!

Secondly, your garden or home could benefit from more color from a beautiful new outdoor hanging plant. The Middle School group could also benefit from your support by purchasing a coupon for such a plant. This coming June, stop by Applebee's for their Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser and you could show your support two times over.

Finally, I would like to announce 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 then 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 at all the upcoming events!

Sincerely,

Thomas McGregor
President, Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.



Upcoming Events

Mar 23rd 6:30 p.m. Book Club meets at Berkshire Hathaway Real Estate office.

Apr 18th 5:30 p.m. Board Meeting at Berkshire Hathaway Real Estate office.

May 9th 5:30 p.m. Board Meeting at Berkshire Hathaway Real Estate office.

May 29th 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. No-host event at Round Table Pizza in honor of Sumiko Komatsu and husband Ryuetsu and give them a RSC send-off back to Japan

April thru June Middle School selling hanging baskets as a fundraiser.

June TBD Middle School Pancake Breakfast fundraiser at Applebee's restaurant.

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

RSC In Need of Name Tag Holders

If you have any plastic holders with string that are in good condition and would be willing to donate them, please contact Debbie Fields 541-643-7824 to arrange for pickup.

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

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RSC Receives Award

The Roseburg Sister Cities organization has received a commendation from the Consular Office of Japan in Portland, Oregon. The following is an excerpt from the letter received by Mayor Larry Rich on January 14, 2016:

"I hope the New Year finds you well and ready to face the challenges of 2016. Please see the enclosed Consul General's Commendation in recognition of your sister-city relationship with Japan.

As we informed you in the autumn, to acknowledge the deep friendship that exists between this region and Japan, we have awarded the sister-state relationship between Oregon and Toyama, as well as the 25 sister-city relationships that exist between cities and towns throughout Oregon, Idaho and southwest Washington and Japan, with the Consul General's Commendation. I hope that these relationships will continue to grow and offer even more exciting and horizon-expanding experiences for people on both sides of the Pacific.

I truly value the many connections that have been established between communities all across the Northwest and their counterparts in Japan and I hope we can work together to strengthen and support the friendships we have built" and the letter was signed Hiroshi Furusawa, Consul General, Consular Office of Japan in Portland.

This is the commendation wording as interpreted:

CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

Consular Office of Japan extends its deepest regards to:

City of Roseburg

Roseburg-Kuki Sister City Relationship

in recognition of its distinguished service in contributing to the deepening of mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and the United States of America.

Awarded on December 11th, 2015

**Consular Office of Japan in Portland
Consul General Hiroshi Furusawa**

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New Board Member Elected

Brett Vannatta, current board member and secretary, has relinquished his position on the board due to a move out of the area. At the February 8th board meeting, Nancy Pittman was unanimously selected to finish Brett's term.



We are sorry to see Brett leave and wish to thank him for his service to our organization. Best of wishes Brett and welcome back Nancy!

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Delegation Visits Roseburg

Roseburg Sister Cities and the city of Roseburg is once again opening our arms and hearts to our friends from Japan. Their upcoming visit is scheduled for October 6 – 14, 2016. As I am sure you all know, it takes the whole village to make this happen and we want this visit to be enjoyable and most of all memorable for our visitors, so we will assuredly be calling on you all for help.

Chairman – Debbie Fields

Translators – Akiyo Riggs

Host Families – Janet Johnston

Budget – Kevin Carson

Transportation – Jeannie Burpee

Airport Pick-up – Larry and Loie Concannon

Welcome Dinner – Rick and Kathy Randol and Dan and Gail Withers

City Day – David Johnston

Farewell Dinner – Nancy Pittman and Marliene Swanson

Snacks – Connie Kloha and Diana Brown

Bus Trip – Jon and Jeannie Burpee and Debbie Fields

If you would like to assist with any of these events please contact the chairman for that event. Another way that folks can help if they are not able to give of their time, is pay for a welcome dinner for one of our visitors or make a donation towards the Farewell Dinner or any of the other events scheduled.

Mark your calendars with the following dates:

October 6th – Visitors arrive and Welcome Dinner

October 7th – City Day

October 10th – Farewell Dinner

October 11th – 14th Bus Trip

October 14th – Delegates fly home

More details will be forthcoming as the event planning continues.

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Roseburg-Kuki Student Exchange Fund-raising

It is an exciting time now for the Kuki Team. Besides the anticipation of our trip to Japan in July, we are in the middle of our recruiting phase. Each year the program adds ten new members to the Team. It is especially intriguing this year since we have added other area middle schools to our group. We have had promising responses from both Glide Middle School and Lincoln Middle School in Oakland. Recruiting has been difficult due to the cost and parents' concern over international travel. We may not reach our full capacity of twenty students, but it appears we will have no less than sixteen.

Fundraising is ongoing since the expense can be difficult for many families. It costs about \$2,500 per student to travel and host. If anyone would like to help with funding events, we would be very grateful. Our current fundraising event is our annual flower basket sales. Coupons can be purchased now for \$18 (we keep \$5). The flower baskets will be available from mid-April until the beginning of July. We are also hoping to sponsor a pancake breakfast at Applebee's at the beginning of June. The date has not been set yet.

Our group always welcomes support in any form.

~ submitted by Paul Whitworth ~

whitworths@charter.net 541.672.6303

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Roseburg Sister City Friendship Garden Blossoms with You!

Along the pathway behind the Douglas County Library is a very unique spot for Roseburg. There opposite of Deer Creek, along the building, is the Roseburg Sister City Friendship Garden. This garden was created in 1995 by RSC President Phil Gayle and friends. It exists to showcase Japanese plantings and stonework and carry the spirit of our friendship. Garden maintenance was carefully coordinated by many folks over the years, initially by Jeannie Burpee and Marliene Swanson.

Honestly, the garden has fallen on tough times the past few years. The Douglas County Commissioners recognized many of the trees were overgrown and under maintained. In 2014 some hard decisions were made with consultation of our board and many of the plantings were agreed to be removed in order to protect the library's structural integrity for the future. Our organization was also made aware we needed a formal agreement with the county to continue to maintain the space.

This month has brought great news to report here in conclusion. The negotiations with the county are finalized and we will now have an agreement to guide to our organizations. The garden is now ready for our hands to bring it back to full blossom. If you would like to be involved in coordinating efforts for the future, please message on our Facebook page or e-mail rsbsistercities@gmail.com.

Please keep an eye out for notice of our first volunteer party in the near future. We would also like to plan new plantings for next winter. Our friendship with Kuki-city can continue to bring beauty to our city with your hands helping out in this special symbolic garden.

~ submitted by Thomas McGregor ~

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Valued Volunteer

Shela Joyce has helped Akiyo Riggs and Marliene Swanson with the Celebration of Literacy Reading Fair for the past four years. She has been an invaluable and dedicated volunteer through her Roseburg High School years. We watched her "grow up" and now she is moving on to bigger and better adventures as she graduates and heads for Alabama and a career in space technology. We will miss her special skills in working with children, making "Ninja" head bands and a variety of origami projects. Always positive and encouraging with each child she works with, Shela will be greatly missed. We hope she will let us know when she completes her studies and will keep in touch as she moves forward with her career plans. Saying thank you seems hardly enough but we do humbly thank her for her contributions.



Hard working Threesome

~ submitted by Marliene Swanson ~

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Celebration of Literacy Reading Fair

The Celebration of Literacy Reading Fair, sponsored by the local Altrusa group, was a day of fun for the children of Douglas County. Our Roseburg Sister Cities organization participated in the event as in years past. It was held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds on Saturday February 27th.

Akiyo Riggs and Marliene Swanson co-chaired the event and spent the entire day at the booth along with high school senior, Shela Joyce, who has participated in this event for 4 years. They and the other volunteers helped the visiting children become a little bit acquainted with Japan. There were headbands provided where the children could draw a "rising sun" and write their names in English, and then have their names also written in Katakana with assistance from our Japanese members Akiyo Riggs, Faye Andrews, and Ikuho Oberman, as well as HD Honscheid. Some children selected book marks to make and had their name choice of Katakana or calligraphy by Diana Brown. For those interested in origami, they could make cranes and frogs.

Additional helpers were Janet Johnston and Nancy Pittman, as well as students Tiana and Hannah Oberman and Clara Kempton, a middle school student who hosted a Japanese student last summer and will be going to Japan this summer.



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Book Club Review and Update

The most recent meeting of the Japanese Book Club was held on January 20, 2016. We discussed the book "The Japanese Lover" by Isabel Allende.

Our next book to review is "Windows for the Crown Prince" by Elizabeth Gray Vining. Mrs. Vining spent four years in Japan teaching the Crown Prince (who is the present Emperor) English, in the time just after World War II. After that we will be reading "The Master of Go" by Yasunari Kawabata, and "The Pillow Book" by Sei Shonagon.

Our meetings are held at Janet Johnston's office at Berkshire Hathaway on Mulholland at 6:30pm. The next one will be on March 23rd, 2016. Please come and join us!

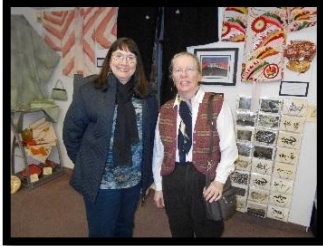
~ submitted by Una Honscheid ~

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Kimono Exhibit

RSC Member, Miyuki Clark and husband Kevin, owners of Clark Studio on NE Exchange Avenue, held a Kimono Exhibit on February 18th from 4:00 – 8:00 pm. The kimonos were displayed on the walls of the shop in varying colors and designs along with other clothing items. The business has various Japanese items and art for sale including numerous wood block prints made by Kevin. Some of his artwork has received special awards. In addition to the kimono display, the Clarks served refreshments to the visitors. Several Roseburg Sister Cities members attended the exhibit including Debbie Fields, Una and HD Honscheid, Faye Andrews, Barbara Iwata, and Nancy Pittman. The event appeared to be very successful for the Clarks.



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RSC Members Support AFS

Several RSC members attended the Annual AFS Intercultural Banquet at the Wellspring Bible Fellowship in Roseburg on March 8th. It was one of several money making projects AFS has during the year to support and help high school students experience life in foreign countries and also supports visiting students from overseas.

This year there are seven AFS Exchange Students in the Douglas County area, one each from the following countries: Sweden, Thailand, Finland, Mexico, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, and The Netherlands. Local students going or already abroad in 2015/2016 are: Tucker DeMara (Switzerland), Kevin Jeffries (Argentina), and Allison Wheeler (Argentina)

A silent auction with a variety of delightful items including some clothing and food from other countries, themed gift baskets, fishing trips, homemade bread for six months, and Norris blueberries, was held while a lovely catered dinner was served. Visiting foreign students and their local host families were introduced. After the dinner, the foreign students presented slide shows about their home countries, differences in the education systems, and impressions of the United States. Delicious desserts for the evening were prepared by the exchange students from their home recipes and shared with those in attendance.

The RSC members attending and sitting together for the evening were Akiyo and Jon Riggs, Marliene and Art Swanson, Janet Johnston, Izumi Vialpando, and Gail and Dan Withers. Also in attendance were RSC members John and Mary Armes, Nancy Anderson, Gerri Behan and Diana Brown.



~ submitted by Janet Johnston ~

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Kuki Team Profile

Name: Alise Perkins
Grade: 10
School: Roseburg High School

What do you enjoy most about school?
The opportunity to learn about many different things at once.

What is your least favorite thing about school?
The work load.

Outside of school, what activities do you enjoy doing?
Flag team and learning languages.

Why did you join the Kuki Team?
To learn extensively about another culture and make friends overseas.

How was your hosting experience?
Amazing. We formed a great bond, and she really felt like part of the family.

What are you looking forward to when you go to Japan this summer?
Definitely the food as well as meeting new people and discovering cultural aspects not before encountered.

What things are you worried about when you travel to Japan this summer?
Not being able to pick up small grains of rice with chopsticks and forgetting to take off my shoes.

What are your favorite Japanese things so far?
The fashion and the cuteness of everything from household items to pop up cafes.

What Japanese things are you not crazy about?
Natto. I heard the texture is awful. Also the traditional toilets. I hope they have the western style.

Who is your Japanese partner?
Nodoka Fujisawa. I can't wait to see her!

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Compassion and Respect

Roseburg Sister City Trip to Kuki-city, Japan

Taking shoes off at the front door, bowing, giving and receiving gifts when meeting new friends, using chopsticks to eat meals that were as good to eat as they were beautiful to gaze upon, and being driven around on the opposite side of the road: all became a regular part of each day for nineteen Roseburg residents who stayed in Shobu, Japan for nine days this past October as part of the Sister City delegation between Roseburg and Kuki-city. This was the first trip to Japan for many of the 2015 delegation who took cultural and language classes to prepare before leaving. The residents also took many gifts with them, some which were handmade as they were told how these are received with much enthusiasm by their Japanese hosts.

Roseburg residents were paired with a host family and stayed in their home. Some homes were more traditional with tatami mats, futons for beds, dinner tables closer to the ground with pillows or short stools to sit upon, while other homes had more similarities to western homes with couches and regular dining tables and beds.

For the first two days in Japan, residents spent time getting to know their host families and each family planned activities for their guests. Some toured around Shobu/Kuki-city exploring the park with its large lake, the three story mall, Shinto and Buddhist temples, city hall with a forestry exhibit, the local library and restaurants. Many families took their guests outside of the city to nearby gardens, forest trails, and temples tucked away in the country. Mary Bosch and Andrew Apter visited such a Buddhist temple where they were treated to a lunch with each artistically prepared dish having a poem or prayer accompanying it. Other delegates rode the train into popular spots in Tokyo, an hour away, touring temples, the aquarium, and the 2,080 foot tall observation tower called the Tokyo Sky Tree. Roseburg residents were relieved that a host or their friend accompanied them and knew English even on these family trips.



The mayor of Kuki-city, Mr. Kenji Tanaka, hosted a welcome party on the first evening in Japan at the Toresen, Farmers Training Center. Some host families dressed their women guests in kimonos, adding to

the authenticity of the experience. Small flags from each country were displayed on the tables with flowers of the season and a full buffet of traditional Japanese foods. The Roseburg delegation prepared a song about rivers, forests and mountains of the Umpqua Valley to the tune of 'This Land is Your Land' and sang to the group of city officials, host families, and Kuki volunteers. Mayor Tanaka welcomed everyone as he remembered his recent and first trip in August 2015 to Roseburg and to UCC where he signed the new sister city proclamation with Roseburg Mayor Larry Rich. Mayor

Tanaka extended a heartfelt message of sorrow to the delegation and to all of the residents of Douglas County for the recent tragedy at UCC. Leader of the Roseburg delegation for 2015, Janet Johnston, thanked the mayor and the hosts for their kind and thoughtful words and hospitality. Each speech was skillfully relayed by volunteer interpreters. A handful of the Roseburg delegation had been to Roseburg before and stayed with other families, so this was a time where everyone met each other and became reacquainted, taking photographs and exchanging small gifts.

Monday, October 12th began a three-day bus trip hosted by the President of the Roseburg-Kuki Association, Mr. Eiji Arai. Joining him was long time member of the Association and photographer extraordinaire, Mr. Shinichi Imamura and several volunteers who made sure every detail was attended to.



The bus took the delegation into the Japanese Alps, northwest of the flat rice fields of Kuki-city. The delegates arrived the first afternoon in the city of Kanazawa and after a traditional lunch, toured the Kenroku-en Gardens. Paths meandered around lakes with stepping stone bridges, wooden gates, tea houses, and pines with far-reaching branches supported by timbers and bamboo. Next delegates wandered the small street of old Kanazawa with shops and temples tucked in behind other shops. The city is known for its production of gold leaf. Roseburg resident Roy Riggs even stood in line to try ice cream with edible gold leaf; he proclaimed, "it actually was good!"

The second day of the bus trip incorporated other transportation to move the group up the mountain. We all boarded a funicular (an inclined cable car), then another bus outfitted with tire chains that took everyone to lunch at Murodo, a lodge high on the mountain in the clouds, snow and ice. Delegate members were in awe of some bundled up workers heading out of the lodge with ropes around their shoulders and heads, holding large wooden boxes on their backs with fresh broccoli and cabbages in each, perhaps resupplying climbers further up the mountain.



Next, all embarked on a trolley bus that took the group through many tunnels, stopped, and everyone stepped through another tunnel to brilliant blue sky with a view thousands of feet below of Kurobe-ko, a bright, emerald green lake and the Kurobe Dam holding it in the valley sprinkled with trees and mosses in autumn colors of reds, oranges, and golds. All members have said this view was truly breathtaking. From here a ropeway, which is like an aerial tram, took everyone down to view the lake and dam up close.



Trolleys took the members through many tunnels down the mountain and to the city of Matsumoto, where delegation members were treated to a night at the Hotel 'Shoho', where the Utsukusi-ga-hara hot springs are located. Women slept in one room and the men in another. All had rooms with tatami mats, sliding paper walls and futons to sleep on with rice pillows and down comforters. To enter public spaces of the hotel, delegates had to don yukatas (a light cotton kimono like robe) and slippers. Delegates reported the dinner was exquisite with at least 10 courses of superb dishes of various fresh fish, tempura vegetables, fondue, and several beautiful desserts. It was here that the Kuki-city residents sang a heartfelt, 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star' in Japanese and in English to their Roseburg guests.

Delegate members also enjoyed the relaxation of the crystal clear onsen hot springs at this hotel. Several communal baths of increasing temperatures were available to the guests to soak in; one area for the men and another for the women.

Leaving the Hotel Shoho the following day, delegates had a short stop at Matsumoto Castle. Many recognized this crisp white and black storied castle, surrounded by koi filled pools, white swans floating by, and a bright red, wooden arching bridge, from the image displayed on television coverage during the 1998 Olympics that took place in Japan.



The final day of the bus trip took everyone to Aoki-mura, a town at the base of the mountains. First stop was city hall and a welcome by Aoki-mura mayor, Masao Kitamura. Kind words were shared with everyone including condolences for the victims, families and community members of the UCC tragedy. Mr. Kitamura gave each delegate a gift on behalf of his city. Delegation leader Janet Johnston shared that Mr. Kitamura had visited Roseburg with the very first Delegation to come to Roseburg, when he was the City Manager of Shobu, and stayed with her and her husband, David.

The day in Aoki-mura unfolded early with a trip to the junior high where the principal greeted everyone and introduced members to the students gathered in the gym. The students entertained the group with singing, taiko drumming and a demonstration of the traditional tea ceremony. Delegation member Rick Randol and his wife, Kathy, remarked that this was their favorite experience of the trip for the student's skills were truly amazing and their singing touched everyone's hearts. Anne Soder, a former teacher in the delegation, reflected on the students' presentation upon returning later to Roseburg, remarking about how disciplined and highly skilled these young people were.



Members of the delegation were bused to lunch at a traditional antique restaurant where everyone was seated around an open fire pit with salmon and tea kettles hanging overhead and thick wooden counters built all around. Delegates, Larry and Loie Concannon, enjoyed the lunch of soba buckwheat noodles and tempura vegetables and shrimp.

Bused back to Shobu-cho, members were treated to karaoke on the bus led by Mr. Arai and Mr. Imamura. Roseburg members Andrew Apter and Larry Concannon joined their hosts in singing solos. Upon arriving back in Shobu, all members were invited to a delicious dinner at 'Tsumugi', hosted by Mrs. Yasuko Koyama, her son Yosimasa and her daughter Kuniko. Mrs. Koyama and her late husband Chiaki have been members of the Association since the beginning and have been to Roseburg several times, most recently staying with Dr. David Soder and his family.



Thursday, October 15th delegates had breakfast with their host families and then met at the Choryuji Temple Kindergarten. Sherlyn Hiatt remarked that this experience was like no other, as members turned the corner and were greeted by 3, 4, and 5 year olds and their teachers waving an American flag in one hand and a Japanese flag in the other, while calling out to everyone, "hello!" and "welcome!" Delegates walked between the two lines of flag waving children, talking with them as they moved through to the school and temple. These young children enthusiastically presented a delightful choreographed program to music in the school yard using colorful parachutes and shiny pom-poms for the Roseburg delegates. Tours of the classrooms including the English class of five year olds led by former Texas resident Marc Bailey who has taught for twenty years now in Japan. While in his classroom, Sherlyn Hiatt, presented a picture book she wrote and illustrated about the Sister City experience to the school. She made sure a translated version was created for the children to enjoy too.

A lighthearted tradition has existed over the years with the delegation exchange of bringing Mr. Bailey's favorite American food, boxed macaroni and cheese, on each trip. Almost at the end of his dynamic English lesson focused on Halloween words and concepts, Rick Randol and Dan Withers started the Roseburg members handing out surprise boxes of macaroni and cheese to him and his young students' delight and gratitude.

The kindergarten students demonstrated Taiko drumming skills to Roseburg residents seated on the gymnasium stage and once finished, each child walked up the stairs to greet their new found American friends with gifts. Roseburg delegates, Gail Withers

and Loie Concannon had planned individual gifts for all of the students from the Sister City group that included suckers and shiny gold medals to wear around their necks.



Leaving the school, delegates passed by beautifully carved Buddhist statues lining the walkways. Roseburg artist HD Honscheid and his wife, Una, listened intently as the interpreter explained the history of each statue. Before entering the Buddhist temple, delegates were invited to cleanse their lips and hands with spring fed water, which is a Japanese tradition before entering a Buddhist Temple. Shoes were exchanged upon entering the temple for slippers to wear through the long corridor leading to the large temple hall. Jeannie Burpee had stayed previously in the temple living quarters with the Shimazaki family. Sadly, Mr. Tatsuo Shimazaki, the Head Priest of the Temple which was a 4th generation for his family, passed away only a couple of weeks before our arrival. However, his son continues as the priest now and he led the group in prayers and a ceremony honoring the victims of the UCC tragedy. At the end of the ceremony delegation members were invited to burn incense and say prayers for our community beside the beautiful altar and flowers. Many also paid their respects to Mr. Shimazaki at a separate altar set up in his memory.

Leaving the hall, mothers of the kindergartners, dressed in colorful kimonos, greeted the Oregon guests to serve them tea and sugar treats in crisply folded origami boxes along with origami folded flowers and animals.



The afternoon of day seven, Roseburg residents participated in a calligraphy class led just for them by an experienced and highly awarded calligraphy artist, Nobuko Imamura. Each resident was provided rice paper, a stone and black ink with a bamboo brush, and instructions to take home to Roseburg for practice. Each member was invited by the instructor to come up to her table where she complimented each person and used her red chop to stamp her Japanese symbol in the corner by our names. Shinichi Imamura photographed each delegate with their creation that day. Later, before leaving Shobu and Kuki-city, each delegate was surprised with their best calligraphy matted in a patterned frame to carry home.

Day eight of the autumn stay in Japan began at the Kuki Bunka Kaikan (Culture Hall) to view the Calligraphy Exhibit. Though delegates could not read the scrolls displayed, the various brushwork done in varying sizes and styles appeared to enthrall the members, especially since everyone had just experienced the challenge of doing calligraphy the day before. From the exhibit, members were bused along



the 'educational street' named by Yasuko Koyama and on to the 'Togyoku Ningyo Kaikan' (Doll museum with Hina Dolls and other dolls for the Boys' Festival). Following the tour of finely crafted exhibits and the doll making workshop, delegates were taken to 'Keibunkan' (a martial arts place) to view adults engaged in the dramatic martial art of Kendo. All were amazed with the discipline and skill these participants, both women and men of all ages, displayed. Delegate Sherlynn Hiatt was convinced to join in the routine at the end and she engaged her expert partner in intense strikes with the bamboo sword entertaining our Japanese hosts.

The day ended with Mayor Tanaka bidding good-bye to everyone at the city hall again, where he posed for a group photograph and passed on through Roseburg Sister City Treasurer, Kevin Carson, a sealed letter for Roseburg Mayor Larry Rich.

The Sister City stay came to an end on day nine with a Farewell Party at Toresen (the Farmer's Training Center Hall). Here Delegation Co-Leader Janet Johnston bid good-bye and Co-Leader Kevin Carson expressed gratitude from the Roseburg delegates:



"This trip has been wonderful. We wish to thank everyone in the Kuki-Roseburg Association for all the time spent planning the bus trip and all of our activities during our stay. Your kindness and hospitality to each of us is something we will never forget. If someone asked what was our favorite experience in Japan we would not be able to come up with just one because everything was so amazing. Each of us will have special moments of our own to remember and we feel privileged to have experienced all of this time together with you." Kevin, on behalf of the Roseburg Delegation, invited the hosts to come visit us in Oregon in 2016. He emphasized that it will be impossible to plan a trip as nice as this one, but we will delight in doing our best for our friends in Kuki-city.

All the delegates would agree that this experience strengthened the bond of friendship and understanding between our two cities, and many are already busy making plans and crafting gifts for their Japanese friends when they visit Roseburg in the coming fall.

~ Submitted by delegate member, Katherine Elisar ~



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
P.O. Box 1643
Roseburg, Oregon 97470

www.roseburg-sister-cities.org

www.facebook.com/RoseburgSisterCities

- ... *"Like" our facebook page!*
- ... *Watch for Garden Clean-up Day email coming soon*
- ...*Delegation visit October 6th - 14th, 2016*