



The Bridge

May 2018

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

Co-Editors
Debbie Fields 541-643-7824
Nancy Pittman 541-733-2442

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 indulge in this newsletter and mark your calendars for all the upcoming events.

The middle school students are off to Kuki City this summer. Prospective parents of delegates should connect ASAP! This is a chance for so many wonderful memories which can stay with your child for a lifetime. Please reach out and learn more today!

Also, our friends from Japan will be here this June so don't be shy and join the team! Hosts, event organizers, and just those who wish to lend a hand are always needed. Everyone in our city can be among the proud team who welcomes the delegates from Kuki City.

I assure you the Welcome Dinner on June 8th is something you will not want to miss. Also, please consider directly connecting with the delegation and joining the bus trip to the North Coast this June as well!

Remember you can connect directly with us at www.roseburgsistercities.org and always 'Like' us on Facebook and virtually stay in touch there.

Last, thank you to everyone who has sent in their annual dues. Active membership status helps maintain the bonds of friendship.

Hope to see you soon at all the upcoming events!

Sincerely,

Thomas McGregor
President, Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.



Memberships Needed

Roseburg Sister Cities is requesting that your 2018 membership be sent in as soon as possible. With the Japanese delegation arriving soon, your continued support by payment of dues contributes to the success of the upcoming visit. Invite your friends to join! We want to share the fun and opportunities of our organization and all it stands for with everyone. To pay membership dues or for more information please contact Kevin Carson kdcarson54@gmail.com or 541-680-9640.



Calendar of Events

May 18 – 19th 9 to 5 Yard Sale fund-raiser at Debbie Fields home

May 28th Deadline to send in RSVP's for Welcome Dinner

May 30th 5:00 Delegation Planning Meeting at Berkshire Hathaway office.

June 7 - 15 Japanese Adult Delegation visits Roseburg

June 8th Welcome Dinner

June 11th Farewell Dinner

June 12th – 15th Bus Tour

July 12th – 23rd Middle School Delegation to travel to Japan

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

Andrea Gray, Connie Kloha, Nancy Pittman, Akiyo Riggs, Paul Whitworth, Cindy Hutchison, Steve Erickson, JoAnn Pico

Your 2018 Board at Work

Since our last newsletter, the Board has continued to meet monthly. Our most recent meeting was on April 19th where the top items on the agenda were the upcoming adult delegation visit and the pending Middle School visit to Japan in July.

In the last four months, a budget was also approved for the 2018 year, the route for the Delegation bus trip was decided, and a new RSC brochure is in the works to add information about the Middle School group. The Friendship Garden is also an ongoing topic of discussion and we are working now with the City of Roseburg to continue with the Garden at its present location.

We have lots of plans in the works to make the 2018 delegation visit the most enjoyable and full of variety to date. To make this happen successfully, we need your help!

Board members are available any time to give updates and answer any questions you may have.



New Board Member Cindy Hutchison



I am a native of Illinois and moved to Roseburg in 1983. I am a retired librarian and have worked at the UCC library, The Douglas County Library System, and Ingram Content Group. I co-owned a bookstore, Jackson Street Bookshop, in the late 1980s. My husband David and I have raised 2 children here in town. I like reading, weaving, knitting, sewing, gardening, hiking, and baking. Supporting art and culture in our community is very important to me.

My interest in Japan started with a class in the history of Japanese printmaking as an undergraduate at UC Santa Cruz. From there I started reading Japanese literature in translation, searching for Japanese food to eat, watching Japanese anime (Kiki's Delivery Service is a favorite), reading Japanese manga as a young adult librarian, studying Japanese textile art, and lastly, discovering Japanese garment sewing and craft magazines.

*****submitted by Cindy Hutchison*****



Barbara Iwata

April 17, 1929 – Aug. 25, 2017

It is with great sadness that we report that a long-time member of Roseburg Sister Cities, Barbara Iwata, passed away August 25, 2017. She was always willing to help in many ways and was especially known for her beautiful flower arrangements at the various functions we held.

Barbara was a loyal and willing member of Roseburg Sister Cities since 1995 and we were the benefactors of her many years of service in helping with preparing sushi to sell at our Obon Festivals, as well as always saying "yes" and assisting with our events. She liked to help 'in the background' so many did not realize how much she helped our organization, but those of us who worked with her greatly appreciated her service with a smile.

Barbara was a member of the Delegation visits to Japan in 1996 and 1997. As a result of our Sister Cities connections in Japan, Barbara was reunited with Japanese cousins she had been unable to trace on her own. Her cousins visited with the Delegation members in 1997 and one cousin joined a subsequent Japanese Delegation to Roseburg. We were happy that we were able to assist Barbara with this part of her heritage and she mentioned many times that she was so grateful to have been able to make this connection.

We will certainly miss our friend, Barbara Iwata, and send our deepest condolences to her family.

****Submitted by Janet Johnston****



Host Families and Delegates

The families that have graciously opened their homes to our incoming delegates are as follows:

John & Laurel Crouch	Tsutomu & Ginko Yamada
Larry & Alpha Rich	Shoichi & Yoshiko Yamada
Bruce & Joanie Chambers	Yoshio & Chieko Hishinuma
John & Mary Armes	Yasunori Koyama
David & Cindy Hutchison	Kaoru Hirasawa & Fumio Tsuboi
Wally & Yuki Taylor	Noriteru Tojo
Rick & Jacky Sohn	Tomoko Shimazaki
Dave & Maureen Williams	Hiroko Kojima
David & Anne Soder	Hideko Miyakoshi & Sanae Kawamoto
Steve & Diana Brown	Kiyoe Iijima & Emiko Takeda

The host families have met once and will be meeting one additional time, working together to make the home stays a wonderful experience for the delegates. Very special thanks are extended to the home stay families.



Welcome Dinner

Invitations for the Welcome Dinner have been mailed, so by now you all should know that the dinner is being held at the Roseburg Country Club this year. It is going to be an evening to remember so also remember that RSVP's need to be returned no later than May 28th!

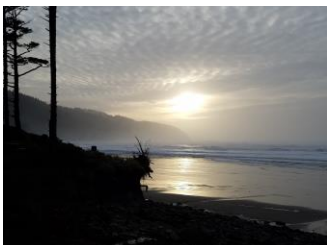
If you are a member and have not received your Welcome Dinner invitation, contact Connie Kloha right away at 541-637- 0517 or connieinroseburg@charter.net.

Remember we have a new agreement with Kuki to limit gifting at the Welcome Dinner to business card exchanges. Please plan to share your Business Card with our Delegation members as you greet them.



Bus Trip Planned

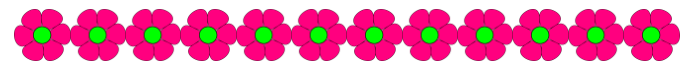
The delegates will be treated to a wonderful trip up the northern Oregon coast. From shopping at Lincoln City to tastings at the Tillamook Cheese Factory and Pacific Oysters, the trip is sure to please. On the agenda is a steam train ride along the coast from Garibaldi to Rockaway Beach, a glass blowing class, visit to a light house, tour of the Maritime Museum in Astoria, and of course a visit to the Astoria Column.



A unique treat will be our stay at the Cannery Pier Hotel. The hotel was originally a cannery and is built on a dock. Each room has a view of the bay with an outdoor sitting area for enjoying the view. Dinner that night will be at another unique location, a building that once was used for drying of the fishermen's nets.



At this time there is still seating available on the bus but reservation and payment must be received this week. If you would like any more information or to reserve a spot, contact Debbie Fields at 541-643-7824 or Janet Johnston at 541-430-2885.



Rock Painting Event

A day of decorating rocks was held on April 29th at the home of Nancy Pittman. Artists for the day included Nancy Pittman, Marliene Swanson, Izumi Vialpando, and her friend Kazuko Bassler, Akiyo Riggs, Debbie Fields and her aunt, Carol Swanson. Debbie's daughter, Amy Clark also contributed several rocks to the painted rock collection.

Rock painting is an international craze and is used to promote happiness and social networking. These rocks will be hidden for the delegates to find during their stay in Oregon. They will be hidden in Roseburg and all along the routes they will travel.

The delegates themselves will try their hand at rock painting during City Day and their creations will be on display at the Welcome Dinner for all to see.



Farewell Dinner Planned

Monday, June 11th from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. is the potluck Farewell Dinner for our visiting delegates, members, and guests. Dinner will be held at Hucrest Community Church of God, 2075 Witherspoon Avenue in Roseburg.

Co-Chairs, Marliene Swanson and Nancy Pittman, are asking those attending to bring a potluck dish such as main dish, side dish, salad, rolls, butter, jam, desserts etc. Please call Marliene or email her to tell what you will be bringing for planning purposes.

The ladies will also need assistance setting up in the afternoon and cleaning up after the dinner. If you can assist in that, please let Marliene know that also. Marliene Swanson, 541-672-1014 or martam2@charter.net



Storage Area Moves to Library

On January 16th a group of individuals gathered to move the Roseburg Sister Cities treasures from their current resting place to the former Douglas County Library. Coordinated by Akiyo Riggs, the movers included Jon, Akiyo and AJ Riggs, Marliene Swanson, Nancy Pittman, Janet Johnston, Connie Kloha, Debbie Fields, Cindy Hutchison, Steve Erickson, Paul Whitworth, and Toshie Anderson.

Wells Fargo Bank was no longer able to store our items. Since the library has been taken over by the City of Roseburg, City Manager Lance Colley was able to provide storage space for us there. During the course of the move, boxes and other items were numbered and itemized. The next step is to itemize each individual piece that RSC owns. The taiko sticks that go with the taiko drum and the Japanese swords and stand seem to be missing at this time. If anyone knows the whereabouts please let Akiyo or Debbie Fields know.



Reading Fair 2018

At least 190 children visited our RSC activity station at this year's Reading Fair at the Douglas County Fairground. The children wrote their names in English and Katakana, and decorated headbands with the "Rising Sun" and ink stamps for the Year of the Dog. Children also colored and decorated bookmarks that had Roseburg Sister Cities' website and other contact information.



A number of adults expressed interest in our adult and student exchange programs. We had a display of Japanese books and toys and literature about our two programs that drew a lot of interest.

A total of 18 adults helped implement our projects. Thanks to Nancy Pittman, a schedule was developed for our volunteers. Akiyo Riggs contacted our Japanese experts who translated the English names into Katakana. The children and their parents were excited to have the students write or trace the katakana letters.



While Akiyo and Marliene Swanson spent the entire day at the fairgrounds, Nancy had organized 2-1/2 hour shifts for our other volunteers. Some volunteers even gave more of their time than the scheduled shifts. A huge thank you to Noriko Corrado, Toshie Anderson, Maureen Williams, Kathy McGuire, Janet Johnston, Faye Andrews, Bruce and Joanie Chambers, Kimiko Olson, Riko Gardner, Diana Brown, HD Honscheid, Katherine Kerns, Connie Kloha, and Erina Dantibo.

Many hands make light work and it was proven to be true once again. The Reading Fair is one of the major events of the Celebration of Literacy which runs through the month of February and into the first week of March.

submitted by Marliene Swanson



B.R.A.V.E

Building Respect and Value for Everyone (BRAVE) was the theme for an activity organized by Marin Gray, RSC member and daughter of Board member Andrea and member XX Gray at Joseph Lane Middle School on February 26th. Roseburg Sister Cities' members showed a presence at the event, hosting a table for the students to visit and learn about Japanese ways and customs. Members attending to the display were Akiyo and Jon Riggs, Nancy Pittman, Janet Johnston, and Debbie Fields.



The students enjoyed learning about Japanese toys, books, and the Middle School exchange program. There were many other tables representing varied cultures and countries and all offering the opportunity to celebrate cultural diversity.



Thanks to Marin for inviting RSC to this wonderful event and allowing the group to share our message of Friendship and Understanding.



Book Club News

The Roseburg Sister Cities Book Club read The Garden of the Evening Mists by Tan Twan Eng and met on March 21st to discuss the book. It is the 2012 Man Asian Literary prize winner. The novel is about a Chinese woman who was the only survivor of a Japanese prison camp in Malay during the Second World War. She wants a garden to honor her sister who died in the camp. Her sister loved Japanese gardens. To accomplish this, the woman becomes an apprentice to the former gardener for Emperor Hirohito. She struggles with memories of the camp, and her wish to honor her sister. The author's writing is eloquent and memorable. His descriptions of the garden's design paint beautiful pictures for the reader. He also presents the emotions of both the survivor and the gardener in a fascinating and sympathetic way.

One of my friends suggested reading the book and listening to it being read aloud. This she felt would be helpful to learn the correct pronunciation of the places that are unfamiliar.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 20th at 6:30 pm at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Real Estate Professionals office. The book selection for discussion at the June meeting is On Familiar Terms by Donald Keene. This book looks at the life and career of the Japanese literature specialist, including his time in World War II as a language officer at Pearl Harbor, his stint as a Chinese war crimes investigator and his eventual return trip to Japan. It is an easy read and available on Amazon for about \$3.00.

We are happy to have new people join us, as we have recently lost two members, due to moving out of the area (Georgia French and Jeannie Burpee). We do suggest that anyone interested in joining contact us prior to the meeting date, in case of any last-minute changes and so we can answer any questions.

Contact Janet Johnston at janetsmail77@gmail.com or 541-430-2885 with any questions or interest in joining.

*****Submitted by Nancy Anderson and Janet Johnston*****



Cooking School 2018



The third and final cooking school led by Chie Furukawa was held on March 4th. Menu for the day was Okonomiyaki which is a cabbage pancake, salad and other goodies.

Eleven people attended and learned to cook this yummy dish. Of course, the best part was eating what we prepared and enjoying the friendship with others!



A special thanks to Chie for coordinating and teaching these fun classes! We would also like to thank Chie's husband, Arthur Chaput for his work to help Chie, and his dishwashing skills!



Yard Sale Fundraiser



Roseburg Sister Cities members are actively working on a yard sale to benefit the organization. The sale is being held this Friday and Saturday, May 18 – 19 from 9 to 5. It is located at Debbie Fields' home at 4132 Carnes Road in Green.

We would like to thank everyone who has donated to the sale. Without your donations, there would not be a sale, so thanks to each and every one of you! The proceeds from the sale will help us toward the costs to host our Japanese Delegations.

Debbie would also like to say thanks in advance to everyone helping with set up, selling, and packing up after the sale. It is so appreciated!

We will see you all at the sale!



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.facebook.com/RoseburgSisterCities
webpage at roseburgsistercities.org

- *Save your treasures for May 2018 yard sale*
- *Welcome Dinner RSVP due May 28th*
- *Delegation visit June 7 – 15, 2018*