



The Bridge

September 2019

Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.

Friendship & Understanding since 1993

Roseburg, Oregon & Kuki City, Japan

Editor

Katherine Elisar 541-680-3614

The President's Corner

Greetings,

The enrichment that comes from the stories of friendship and understanding with Roseburg Sister Cities can be timeless. Summer unfolded an inspiring story with the visiting delegation of elected officials and staff from Kuki City.



Our goal was for Mayor Umeda and friends to tour many things Umpqua. Local industry can be an education about our culture and daily way of life. We arrived at D R Johnson Lumber Co and their Operations Manager Todd Black was there to greet us. Todd had voyaged in 1987 as a middle schooler to Japan and there on the tour was his host family member Kuki City Council member Kenichiro Hirasawa. The two were overjoyed to shake hands and reunite!

Huge kudos to everyone who helped host the mayor, as well as, the Kuki City middle school students. The many hours of planning paid off big time! We were all happy to hear of many incredible things about their time here.

We have an excellent adult delegation signed up to venture to Japan this October. Be sure to 'Like' us on Facebook and virtually stay in touch there. I am sure many amazing photos will be shared!

Lastly, thank you to everyone who has sent in their annual dues. Active membership status helps maintain the bonds of friendship. To connect directly with us, go to: www.roseburgsistercities.org for more information on membership and all things Roseburg Sister Cities.

Hope to see you all soon at the Annual Dinner later this autumn on Sunday, November 4th!

Sincerely,

Thomas McGregor

President, Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.



Calendar of Events

September 13 – 9:00 – 11:00 am: Sister City Garden Clean-up; meet behind the Roseburg City Library at the east end on Fowler Street.

September 17, 24, October 1, 8 at 6:30 – 7:30 pm: Tuesday Language classes at Jo Lane Middle School; for 2019 Adult Delegation; Eric Olson, instructor.

October 17 – 26 Adult Delegation travels to Japan.

Please join us for the Roseburg Sister Cities' Annual Meeting & Potluck Dinner
Sunday, November 3rd

4:00 pm at Linus Oakes Retirement Center

The program will include:

highlights of the Kuki City Mayor's visit,
July hosting of the Kuki City Middle School Students,
the October Adult Delegation Trip,
& the election of Board members for 2020 - 2021.

SAVE THE DATE: details coming soon!

*Remember to pay your 2020 dues at the event.

Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.

P.O. Box

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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, Joanie Chambers, Steve Erickson, JoAnn Pico



KUKI STUDENT EXCHANGE 2019

Roseburg students and their families hosted 18 students and 4 chaperones July 23rd - August 1st. In addition, Mayor Umeda and five other city officials arrived in Roseburg on July 29th and traveled home with the student group. We had a busy schedule packing in a lot of fun local activities. The weather was perfect, the best in many years for a visit.

Our group carpooled to Eugene to pick up the students. We returned to Roseburg and our weary travelers went home with their host families, taking with them the schedule booklet and team shirts.

We kept things close to home on Wednesday.



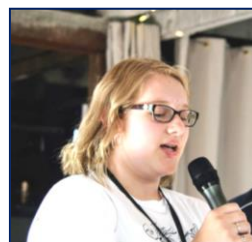
The group visited the Safety Center, seeing both the police and fire stations. A highlight was seeing the rescue dog in action. We also visited city hall, in the council chamber with a couple of council members. From there, we walked

to the courthouse lawn for lunch. Mercy put together wonderful boxed lunches for our group.

We took a short walk around downtown and then went to Create and Sip Studio. The students painted a scene of Crater Lake for the next hour and a half. Next the group went to Ten Down where they bowled for an hour with the fun lighting and music.



Our traditional Welcome Dinner was on Wednesday evening at the party barn at the CH Bailey House in Dixonville. There was a wonderful potluck dinner which featured pulled pork



sandwiches. Part of the tradition is speeches by both chaperones and students. We heard from Mr. Uchiyama, a junior high principal. Roseburg students, Olivia and Savannah,



delivered brief speeches. We then heard a nice speech by Chizuru, who spoke in English: impressive! The evening continued with students doing interactive games organized by former member Margo Boyd. This was a wonderful evening for all involved.

Thursday took us to Glide, as half of our Team is from the Glide area. We started out at Glide High School with some cookie baking and rides in beautiful old cars. The group then did a short hike on the North Umpqua Trail to Deadline Falls.



Lunch was served next to the old mill pond at the Blodgett's house.



Afterwards, the students fished and paddled kayaks on the pond, as well as enjoying lawn games or just some relaxing. The next venue was further up Little River to the Bucich family home. Here the students cooled off with swimming in their great swimming hole.



There was also a BBQ dinner for the students and families. We were so lucky to be in such beautiful locations.

Friday, the city of Bandon was our destination! With our group being so large, we made three groups, rotating between activities which included lunch at Bandon Brewing, shopping, and crabbing in the bay. Surprisingly, the group caught more than 60 crabs! On the beach at the jetty, we were lucky enough to see two whales very close. While the students played, a few parents cooked the crabs. Everyone then joined in for an impromptu crab feed. Time in Bandon ended with ice cream at Face Rock Creamery.



The weekend was up to the families; from what I heard, many wonderful experiences happened.

Monday had us traveling to Grants Pass for a jet boat trip at Hellgate Excursions. The smoke was prevalent due to the south county fire, but it did not dampen our spirits.



Our trip included lunch at the lodge. I asked our boat driver for "extra wet" on the way back. He did not disappoint. As usual, everyone seemed to have a blast on the boats!

Tuesday was our second Roseburg day. We began at Wildlife Safari. The entire group got on the bus and took the full drive-through tour. It was a cool morning, so the animals were active. We had a short time in the village before we split into two groups. One group saw the elephants, while the other saw the giraffes. We ventured up the freeway to the Roseburg Rod and Gun Club where we had lunch that Marliene Swanson and other RSC members put on a great Frito pie lunch for us.

20 Japanese middle school students and their chaperones from Kuki City were joined by their host homestay students for a Frito Pie lunch at the Rod and Gun Club July 30th. The menu also included steamed rice, Oreo cookies, watermelon, and flavored bottled water. Colorful balloons and checkered tablecloths decorated the tables. The Frito pies were very popular, as was the rice. Based on the fact that there were no leftovers, we think our menu choices were right on!

Joanie Chambers and Marliene Swanson co-chaired the event. Others providing valuable help were Beverly Cole, Linda Fisher, Joann Pico, Maureen William, Akiyo Riggs and Nancy Pittman. The Rod and Gun Club donated their excellent pavilion area free of charge. Bruce Chambers and Art Swanson also assisted in set up and clean up.

Paul Whitworth is to be congratulated for organizing and overseeing such a fine group of polite, enthusiastic and energetic middle school students.

** Submitted by Marliene Swanson*

From there, we went to Douglas County Forest Products for a tour of the mill. It was very loud but very interesting. For more fun we jumped over to UCC for time in the pool. After some down time in

the late afternoon, the group met back up for the Music on the Half Shell concert. It was a nice way to end the day.



Kuki City Mayor, Shuichi Umeda, and Adults:

Tuesday was also the first full day that the Mayor's group was in Roseburg. Thomas was gracious enough to take the day off and drive the van around for the day. They started their day down in Riddle at DR Johnson Lumber. They got to tour the state of the art CLT manufacturing



plant. To make things more interesting, the group got to meet Todd Black, who went on the first trip to Shobu in 1987. From there, the group went to UCC for a tour of the campus with Dustin Cosby. For lunch Thomas took the group to Lighthouse Bakery Cafe in Umpqua. Then they met Ellie Norris for a tour of the nearby Norris Blueberry Farm.



From the Blueberry Farm, they went for some wine tasting at Reustle Vineyards. Since there was

still more time in the day, the group went to see the Safety Center and City Hall, followed by a stroll around downtown. We then had a meet and greet with RSC members at Backside Brewery, and of course, some beer. I then took the guys to the Music on the Half Shell concert, followed by shopping at Walmart. And, to close out the evening, we went to Applebee's where they sampled all of the appetizers. We packed a lot in!

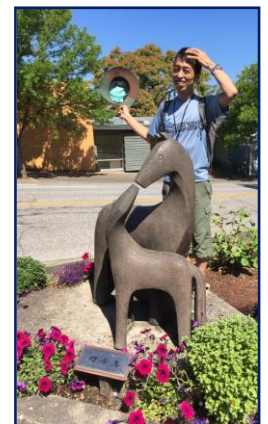
Sadly, Wednesday was our last full day together. Today, the Mayor's group joined the student group for the entire day. We all hiked up to Fall Creek Falls and then to Susan Creek Falls.



Lunch was spent at Susan Creek. We took a look at the Tioga Bridge and then drove to the Fromdahl's house. They have a beautiful location that includes dense forest, open meadow, and a creek. Everyone spent the afternoon doing various activities, including going in the creek, playing games, visiting, and eating. We wound down the evening with some speeches and gift giving, as well as sharing our appreciation for those that helped make the visit a success.

Thursday had a very early start! We met at RHS just after 4:00 am so that we could carpool up to Eugene. It was sad to see our friends leave. I hope that bonds became stronger and that many of us will keep connected.

* Submitted by Paul Whitworth, Director



Thank You!

The Roseburg Kuki Student Exchange could not have provided such a great visitation without the donations we received from the community. The donations came in the form of time, money, or products. We would like to thank the following:

Mercy Foundation
The Blodgett Family
Jay and Sherry Couron
Christine Hill
Bigfoot Beverages
Wildlife Safari
The Plant Warehouse
Tedy and Tim Fromdahl
Misti-Kae and Danny Bucich
Idleld Trading Post
Abby's Pizza
Domino's Pizza
Logger's Pizza
Little Caesar's Pizza
Round Table Pizza
McDonalds Wholesale
Harbor Wholesale
Prints Charming
Ten Down
Clint Newell Motors
Glide School District
The Glide Community
Gale and Linda Reynolds

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Thank You to
CLINT NEWELL AUTO GROUP



For generously DONATING a Van for 4 days to transport the Mayor and his group from and to the Eugene airport, and around Douglas County as they visited the Lumber Mill, Blueberry Farm, and joined in the Middle School activities!

For more photos & Info, follow the Kuki Team on Facebook at Roseburg Kuki Student Exchange!

Welcome Dinner for Mayor Umeda



Kuki City Mayor Umeda and Roseburg Mayor Rich

Roseburg Sister Cities was pleased that the new Kuki City Mayor, Shuichi Umeda, traveled from Japan to Roseburg to learn more about the Middle School and Adult Roseburg Sister Cities groups.

To honor the Mayor's visit, we provided a Welcome Dinner at TRUE Kitchen & Bar in Roseburg on Monday, June 29, 2019.



In attendance were the Mayor's group – Kuki City Mayor, Shuichi Umeda; Kuki City Council Chairman, Akihiro Kamijo; Kuki City Council Member, Kenichiro Hirasawa; Head of Citizen Life Section of Kuki City,

Tatsuya Ichikawa; Kuki City Secretary Manager, Masahide Hidaka; and Interpreter/Middle School Exchange Advisor, Danny Blivens.

Those representing Roseburg were – Roseburg Mayor, Larry Rich and his wife, Alpha Rich; City Councilors, Linda Fisher-Fowler and Beverly Cole; Retired Roseburg City Recorder, Sheila Cox; Umpqua Community College President, Dr. Debra Thatcher; Umpqua Community College Enrollment Advisor, Dustin Cosby; Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer,

Public Health Officer; Umpqua Community Health Center C.E.O., KC Bolton; Roseburg Sister Cities Vice President, Janet Johnston; and Roseburg Sister Cities Board Member and Interpreter, Akiyo Riggs.

Both Mayor Rich and Mayor Umeda shared remarks with those in attendance and wishes for continued Friendship and Understanding between our Cities and the continued success of our Exchange program.



Although they must have been exhausted arriving at the dinner after 12-14 hours of travel from Japan, the Mayor's group were enthusiastic about their visit and interested to learn more about Roseburg to share on their return to Kuki City. Mr. Hirasawa, City Council Member, and his family will be hosting two of our 2019 Delegation members in October – Jeneen Hartley and Emily Brandt.

Dr. Thatcher restated the agreement that Umpqua Community College has had in place for many years: that any students from Kuki City who attend Umpqua Community College are eligible for "IN-STATE" Tuition. Dustin Cosby, the UCC Enrollment Advisor, has been working with Kuki City in hopes that there will be students coming from Kuki City to Umpqua Community College in the future and gave the Mayor and his group a tour of the Umpqua Community College campus the day after the Welcome Dinner.

Roseburg Sister Cities is very grateful to Dr. Bob and Ann Dannenhoffer, who, through their generous donation of \$1,000 to Roseburg Sister Cities, allowed us to provide this Welcome Dinner for the Kuki City Mayor and his group!



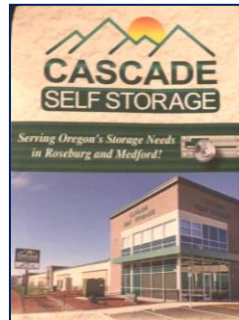
** Submitted by Janet Johnston, RSC Vice President*

New RSC Storage Facility

As of 08/25/2019, Roseburg Sister Cities has a new storage facility: for one full year a 10 x 10 storage is complimentary of Cascade Self-Storage!

Since January 16, 2018 we have had our storage with the City of Roseburg Library after Wells Fargo Bank closed their downtown branch where our previous long-time storage was located.

Following the remodeling of the library and the opening, the Library Director, Kris Wiley, requested RSC to move our items by September 1st due to many library projects, sharing the area with Douglas ESD, and security concerns.



After checking many possible places, we received a reply from the Cascade Self-Storage which is very close to the Library. Connie Kloha signed the papers, checked the facility and readied us to move in.

Ten adults from the RSC members and four young people helped from 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm on Sunday, August 25th.

Thank you to these volunteers for their help to bring items down the 21 stairs at the library and the long walkway in the new facility:



- Yamato & Kaito Anderson * Kevin Carson
- Kai Castle * Debbie Fields * Connie & Nicole Kloha
- Janet Johnston * Jon & Akiyo Riggs
- Art & Marliene Swanson * David & Ann Soder

** Submitted by Akiyo Riggs*



2019 Adult Delegation to Japan

Roseburg Sister Cities will send a full adult delegation of 20 to Japan in October, flying out of Portland October 17, and returning October 26.

Delegates and their host families are:

Janet Johnston, Co-Leader	Yoshiyuki & Kaori Shirako
Kevin Carson, Co-Leader & Katherine Elisar	Etsuko & Mikio Okano
Roy Riggs	Eiji & Kiyoe Iijima
David Johnston	Akinori & Hideko Miyakoshi
Nancy Pittman	Yasuko & Kuniko Koyama
Marliene Swanson	Sachiko Iwai
Joanie Chambers & Bev Cole	Isao & Shizuko Hattori
Martha Scott & Suzi Armstrong	Tsutomu & Ginko Yamada
Charlotte Carter & Nancy Wolgamott	Hiroko Kojima
Linda Fisher Fowler & Sheila Cox	Toshie & Tetsuya Matsui
Jon & Jeannie Burpee	Shoichi & Yoshiko Yamada
Skyler Abel	Chie & Takashi Takamatsu
Jeneen Hartley & Emily Brandt	Kenichiro & Rie Hirasawa

Several families have been to Roseburg while some are new to the program. One host this year, Isao Hattori, a teacher who back in 1985 started a pen pal relationship with Roseburg teacher Harold Winfield's class that grew into the middle school exchange that is still going strong.

The delegates are as ready as they can be after attending three planning meetings to get acquainted with each other, learn about customs and culture of Japan, and expectations on the trip. Four one-hour Japanese language classes will be held to learn basic skills in September and October.

Delegates are looking forward to spending the weekend with host families and attending the Welcome Party. Another day will be visiting Kuki City Hall, meeting Mayor Shuichi Umeda, who visited Roseburg this summer, and visiting the impressive Choryuji Temple and Kindergarten. The 3-day bus trip will travel on Tokaido Highway southwest of Tokyo to Suruga Bay and the Izu Peninsula in Shizuoka Prefecture, continuing on to the Mt. Fuji area and Kawaguchi Lake. Returning to Kuki, we will enjoy more activities before saying a sad goodbye to host families at a Farewell Party.

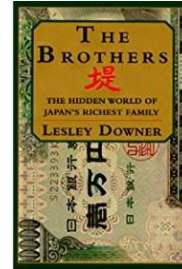
** Submitted by Kevin Carson*

You're Invited...

RSC Book Club

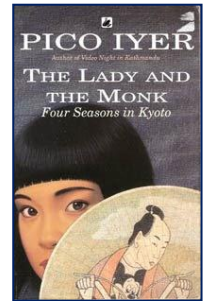
August 28th the RSC Book Club met to discuss

"The Brothers" by Lesley Downer. An in-depth reach into the history of one of Japan's leading capitalist families. Not an easy read, but quite interesting for those able to plow through to the end.



Our next book will be **"The Lady and the Monk" by Pico Iyer.** The author chose to spend time in Kyoto, Japan, to learn about Buddhism, and the Japanese, and ended up developing a relationship with a Japanese woman.

Our next meeting will be at Berkshire Hathaway offices on Mulholland: November 20th, at 5:30 pm. All are welcome, having read the book or not. Any suggestions are welcome for future reads: so much the better!



** Submitted by Una Honsheid*





**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH, 9:00 to 11:00 am
PLEASE JOIN OUR WORK PARTY
TO BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO
THE RSC FRIENDSHIP GARDEN!**

As many of you know, the *Roseburg Sister City Friendship Garden* behind the Library fell into a sad state of neglect when the Library closed. In the past 6 months, however, we have had work parties to begin the rehabilitation of the Garden.

Volunteers have worked closely with Tracy Pope, horticulturalist for the City of Roseburg. During our last work party we covered the entire surface with compost, planted a variety of plants and began to breathe new life into the Garden.

Our next work party will be Friday, September 13th from 9 am until 11 am.

Tracy Pope will provide native plants to add to the creekside of the garden. We will do general maintenance, mulching, weeding and transplanting.

Volunteers should bring gloves, sun hat, water bottle and any favorite garden tool they might have. Tools and wheelbarrows will be available.

For further information, call Steve Erickson @ 541-672-4367



Please Join or Renew RSC Membership!

- New Membership
- Renew Membership (Tax Deductible 501-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 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
- Travel as a RSC Delegate to Japan** (usually October, 9-12 days)
- 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

