

The Bridge

Fall 2009

Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc. – Friendship & Understanding since 1993 – Roseburg, Oregon & Shobu, Japan

The President's Corner by Janet Johnston

Thank you for the opportunity of serving as your President again this year!

It has been an interesting year, with delightful visits from our friends in Shobu, but disappointments that the June Delegation was cancelled, as the Japanese Government discouraged travel outside Japan due to the Swine Flu scare.

Mr. & Mrs. Koyama & Sumiko Komatsu visited us last the spring and generously shared their extensive knowledge by conducting Bonsai and Ikebana classes for our community. Many of our members also had the opportunity to meet Mr. & Mrs. Koyama at home events that our members graciously hosted.

I want to personally thank the Host families for Mr. & Mrs. Koyama, and Sumiko Komatsu - David & Kellene Soder & Wally & Yuki Taylor, plus those who provided event sites and transportation & entertainment for them – Heidi & John Cozier, Diana & Steve Brown, Kim Gandy and family. David & Kellene Soder also opened their home for our Japanese Dinner which was a great success.

In June, we enjoyed a visit from Sanae Kawamoto, who has been one of our translators for many years during



the October visits, and her student, Yumi Yoshie, a Real Estate Agent in Japan. Special thanks to Diana & Steve Brown and Gerri & Robert Behan for hosting them. Also thanks to Diana Brown, Gerri & Robert Behan, Suzi Armstong, Mary Huber & Liz Vajda who accompanied us when we took them on a short visit to Portland and surrounding areas, and helped with expenses for that part of their visit.

In September, we shared a booth at the Arts and Wine Festival at UCC with the Aranda de Duero to promote our Sister Cities programs, and handed out membership brochures.

Our October Delegation, lead by Jeannie Burpee, will be visiting Shobu from October 20th to 29th, and then will be sharing memories of their visit with us at the Annual Meeting on November 15th. A list of the Delegation members and their Host Families in Shobu is included elsewhere in this newsletter. They will be visiting a new area in Toyama prefecture near Nagano this year, so I'm sure they will have some interesting photos and stories to share.

We look forward to having you join us at the Annual Meeting to hear about this visit!

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Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.

P.O. Box 1643
Roseburg, Oregon 97470
www.roseburg-sister-cities.org



"A Mother & Her Colt"
Sculptor, Mr. Toshio Ogino, Shobu

Save the Date! RSC Annual Meeting!

Please join us for the Roseburg Sister Cities Annual Meeting on **Sunday, November 15th at 5 pm in the Community Room at Linus Oakes**. This will be a potluck dinner, so please **RSVP to Nancy Pittman @ 677-7382** for directions and your potluck selection.

Don't miss this opportunity to get a 'flavor' of visiting Japan with our Exchange program... The October Delegation will be sharing stories and photos from their 2009 visit to the Nagano and Toyama prefectures in Japan as well as the Shobu area.

In addition, we will be electing the 2010 Board of Directors that evening.

This is also a great time to pay your **2010 Membership dues** of \$25 per family and save us the expense of mailing out some renewal and membership postcards.

We look forward to seeing you there!



'President's Message' continued...

This year's Nominating Committee – John Cozier, David Soder and Marliene Winfield are busy making contacts to fill our Board for next year and will have a slate of nominees to vote on at the Annual Meeting. We hope you will say 'yes' if called, to help us direct the future of our organization, as we head into our 17th year of the Adult Exchange program.

Please consider bringing prospective members to the Annual Meeting, as this is a great opportunity to let them know about our activities and generate interest in participating as a Host family or joining a future Delegation to Shobu...

Sincerely,
Janet Johnston
2009 President
(541) 430-2885; janetjohnston@prurep.com

SHOBU GIFT QUILT

Watch for It on Display Soon!

The 2007 Shobu Delegation presented Roseburg Sister Cities with a handmade quilt; the signatures of all the delegates are on the back side. The theme of the quilt was 'fire' symbols and therefore it was thought that it would be appropriate to hang this quilt in the new Fire Station. It has been stored at the Roseburg City Fire Station awaiting the completion of the new Community Services Building. The Building is scheduled to be completed in October 2009.



Our thanks to Georgia French, Roseburg Sister Cities member, who constructed and donated a fabric sleeve hanger on the back of the quilt and provided a bamboo rod to hang it on.

Looking for a Weekend Adventure with a little Wine and 'SAKE' tasting?

Head up I-5 to Forest Grove, just south of Portland and west of I-5, where you can visit eight wineries and taste pinot noir, pinot gris, and chardonnay. Arrange your itinerary on their website: www.northwillamettevintners.com

While you are there, take a free tour through the *SakeOne* brewery and learn how a rice mill works, the difference between "ginjo" and "dai ginjo" sake, view the production steps in producing their sake, and why Oregon's water produces premium sake. You can then sample the Sake (rice wines) along with some nibbles, such as duck mousse.

SakeOne – 820 Elm St., Forest Grove, OR
503-357-7056
www.sakeone.com



Other places of interest in Forest Grove:

Urban Decanter – a downtown wine bar with a large selection of wines. Live jazz and classical music is featured on Friday or Saturday nights. 2030 Main St., 503-359-7678
www.urbandecanter.com

Hagg Lake and Scoggins Valley Park – Fish for rainbow trout or smallmouth bass, or explore 15 miles of hiking and biking trails at this 2600-acre recreation area just outside of Forest Grove, 50250 SW Scoggins Valley Rd., 503-359-5732

Collections in the Attic – A two-story mall that showcases the wares of 40 antique dealers, 2020 Main St., 503-357-0316

Valley Art Gallery – featuring landscapes, salt-fired pottery, fiber arts of regional artists, 2022 Main St., 503-357-3703
www.valleyart.org

McMenamins Grand Lodge and Ironwork Grill – This 1922 Georgian Colonial-style retreat was once a Masonic retirement home. Today guests enjoy the hallways lined with artwork, several fireplaces, heated stone pool and reasonably priced guest rooms, as well as an on-site movie theater and a 10-hole disc golf course, 3505 Pacific Avenue, 503-992-9533,
www.thegrandlodge.com

For additional information on attractions in this area visit: www.visitwashingtoncountyoregon.com

Source: Sept/Oct 2009 VIA AAA Oregon magazine

Book Club Nook: On **January 11, 2010**, at 6:30pm we will gather to discuss The Book of Tea, by Tenshin (Kakuzo) Okakura. It is readily available. Here is some information -- straight from Wikipedia:

The Book of Tea was written by Okakura Kakuzo in the early 20th century. It was first published in 1906, and has since been republished many times. In the book, Kakuzo introduces the term Teaism and how Tea has affected nearly every aspect of Japanese culture, thought, and life. The book is accessible to Western audiences because Kakuzo was taught at a young age to speak English; and spoke it all his life, becoming proficient at communicating his thoughts to the Western Mind. In his book, he discusses such topics as Zen and Taoism, but also the secular aspects of Tea and Japanese life. The book emphasizes how Teaism taught the Japanese many things; most importantly, simplicity. Kakuzo argues that this tea-induced simplicity affected art and architecture, and he was a long-time student of the visual arts. He ends the book with a chapter on Tea Masters, and spends some time talking about Sen no Rikyu and his contribution to the Japanese Tea Ceremony.



On **April 12, 2010**, we will meet to discuss The Teahouse Fire, by Ellis Avery. This 2006 novel is described thusly on the jacket cover: "The story of two women whose lives intersect in late-nineteenth-century Japan, The Teahouse Fire is also a portrait of one of the most fascinating places and times in all of history -- Japan as it opens its doors to the West. It was a period when one's choice of kimono could make a political statement, when women stopped blackening their teeth to profess allegiance to Western ideas, and when Japan's most mysterious rite -- the tea ceremony -- became not just a sacramental meal, but a ritual battlefield."

Our discussions are wonderful and we are learning so much! We hope you will consider joining us. For more information call Georgia French at 672-5663.



In Memory of Mr. Koushi Iwai

We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of our long time, Shobu friend, Koushi Iwai on July 28, 2009, at the young age of 56.

Iwai-san was born on October 22, 1952 in Ninomiya-machi, Tochigi Prefecture (Ninomiyamachi has since merged into Maoka-shi). Iwai-san married his wife Sachiko-san on April 30, 1976. He also leaves three sons: Hiroki & twins – Masaki and Taiki, one granddaughter – Kaname (two-years old), and another grandchild expected to be born next spring.

Iwai-san was Chairman of the Parent Teacher Association in the mid-1980's when the Roseburg-Shobu Middle School Exchange program was started. He supported that program from the very beginning. His oldest son, Hiroki, visited Roseburg with the Middle School student exchange. Mr. & Mrs. Iwai hosted students from Roseburg in their home during those early student exchanges. Iwai-san visited Roseburg for the first time with the initial adult delegation to explore the Adult Exchange program being started with Roseburg and served as an Officer of the Shobu-Roseburg Association for many years. Subsequently, Iwai-san returned to Roseburg a record total of nine times.

In Shobu, Iwai-san was the President of a well known landscaping company and he shared his talents by assisting with the

Sister-City Friendship Garden behind the Douglas County Courthouse and helping plant the cherry trees at Umpqua Valley Arts Center.

Over the course of the 16 years of our Adult Exchange program, Koushi-san and Sachiko-san hosted Roseburg visitors many times at their home in Shobu. They also accompanied many Adult Delegation trips throughout Japan. Iwai-san was very generous in sharing his culture and his beautiful Japanese heritage.

In honor and gratitude for his outstanding support for over 20 years of both the Middle School program and our Roseburg Sister Cities Adult Exchange program, the RSC Board voted to send flowers and a written expression of deepest sympathy to his family. Many of our members will remember Koushi-san's smile and kindnesses to them while they were visiting Japan and we will all greatly miss seeing him the next time we visit Shobu.

~ Janet Johnston

*The next RSC newsletter publication will be Spring 2010.
If you have ideas, comments, suggestions, photos, or articles,
please contact Jonna Wagner at 530-3184 or e-mail:
scrappinrealtor@yahoo.com
(Also contact to be removed from mailing list.)*

Please Join or Renew Membership!

New Membership *Renewing Membership*

(\$25 Per Household, Tax Deductible)

Make checks payable to: Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.

Mail to: P.O. Box 1643, Roseburg, OR 97470

Name(s):

Address:

Phone: _____ **Email** _____

Check Below to let us know your areas of special interest:

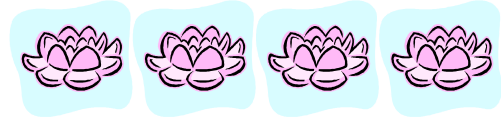
Friendship Garden (behind Do. Co. Library) Committee Helper

June Hosting - Help w/visitor events, dinners, sightseeing, etc.
(usually 4-7 days in June) Serve as Host Family Helper

Annual Visit To Japan: (usually Oct.; 9-12 days)
 Delegate selection help Travel as Delegate

Special Committees: Future Board Member
 Membership
 Speaker Bureau member Displays-help do Sushi
Night
 Japanese Lang./Interpreter Japanese Film Festival
 Newsletter
 Nov. Annual Dinner-helper Historian/Scrapbook Storage
Rm

Liaisons: Japanese students UCC/RHS City Hall/Chamber
Commerce



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND November 7th, DC Library

Alton Chung, Storyteller Extraordinaire, who received raving reviews for his storytelling when he visited Roseburg last spring, in conjunction with the Oregon 150th Celebration, will be returning to Roseburg on November 7th at 12:30 pm in the Ford Community Room @ Douglas County Library.

"We are constantly bombarded with stimulation and instant gratification through TV, video games, computers, and the latest electronic devices. We have very little time for human connection. It is my belief that if you can be fully present with another human being for five minutes a day, you are fortunate. When performing, I try to connect and be fully present with the audience—to be in the here and now. At times, audience members, especially young people, seem to hunger for the connection and stories, as if they can never get enough. I believe that there is a need for true human connection and story in our society," Alton Chung.

For additional information check out his website:
www.altonchung.com