



The Bridge

Summer 2011

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

The President's Corner by Nancy Pittman

To those of you who have joined "Roseburg Sister Cities," thank you so much for your support of our organization. Thank you, also, to those of you who are actively involved in our various committees and are keeping things running smoothly. You are all greatly appreciated.



One of our committees, The "Benefits and Outreach Activities Committee," chaired by Robert Behan, has met a couple times to find additional activities and events for our members that tie in with our association with Japan, and which will also help us get better acquainted with each other. We already have much in common since a number of us have traveled to Japan and/or hosted Japanese guests.

An example of some of the new activities that have been available this year have been the trips to Eugene to attend the Asian Cultural Fair, and to The Hult Center to see "The Mikado", an operetta by Gilbert and Sullivan; an afternoon at the Douglas County Museum to see the animated film, "Nitaboh," which was a very good story and showed the culture and beauty of Japan; and the viewing of fireworks on the 4th of July from Robert and Gerri Behan's home. The Committee is trying to plan other events that might interest you including viewing the 4th of July fireworks from Robert and Gerri Behan's home, and possibly a day trip to Portland. If you have suggestions for other activities you think our members would enjoy, please let us know. Since our hosting of delegates has changed to every other year, we hope the addition of new events will encourage you to maintain your membership in our organization.

Screening of the Japanese movie "Nitaboh" at the DC Museum!



About 30 people showed up for the free movie matinee.



New Name for Sister City!

Our Sister City in Japan has a new name and a new logo. It is now called **Kuki-city Roseburg Association (KRA)**. Shobu was incorporated into a larger city called Kuki-city, so their organization will no longer be referred to as Shobu-Roseburg Association. A picture of the new logo is here for you to see.



Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.

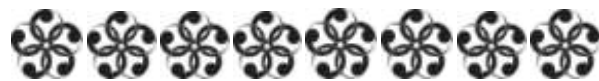
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www.roseburg-sister-cities.org

2011 Board of Directors

President: Nancy Pittman **Vice President:** Janet Johnston
Secretary: Ketti Walker **Treasurer:** Kevin Carson

Other Board Members:

Robert Behan, Berta Dargen, Connie Kloha, Betti Manfre,
Thomas McGregor, Thelma Sayers, Kellene McKenzie, & Liz Vajda



"Nitaboh" Film at the DC Museum!

On Sunday, May 15, Roseburg Sister Cities had a free matinee screening of the Japanese movie "Nitaboh", a story of a blind boy who learns to play the shamisen (guitar) and ultimately founds a new "Tsugaru" style of shamisen music. The film was in Japanese with English subtitles and co-sponsored by the Consulate-General of Japan in Portland. Director Akio Nishizawa kindly gives permission of screenings of his film through the Ministry of Education. The event was open to the public and advertised through our e-mail list, posters at RHS, Fremont and Jo Lane middle schools and the News-Review "Weekend Best Bets" section. About 30 people, a mix of members, non-members, and middle and high school students turned out for the movie which was shown in the auditorium at the Douglas County Museum. Festival rice crackers were given to the guests and they were offered complimentary admission to the other exhibits. Special thanks to those of you who attended and to Gardner Chappell, Museum Director, and his staff for their support of international friendship and cultural exchange.

A notice will be sent out later to ask for volunteers to work the three-hour shifts. If you know now you would like to help, contact Nancy Pittman at 541-677-7382.

"Cloud of Sparrows"

"No one's being excluded every possibility." The reality of this statement is captured in Takashi Matsuoka's first novel set in Japan in 1861. A charismatic Great Samurai Lord of Japan, his geisha lover, a West Texas gun-slinger, and a young missionary woman experience great changes as their lives become involved with one another and the historical setting of Edo Japan just opening to the West.

With Our Deepest Sympathy...

We are sorry to report that several of our Roseburg Sister City participants have passed away recently.

Kazuko Severson - Kazuko was one of our members who worked on many projects and greatly supported our organization for many years. Her family was very kind to name Roseburg Sister Cities for donations on her behalf. (See Separate article about Kazuko in this Newsletter.)

Jake Wanner - Jake was a Delegate in the 2008 Trip to Japan and had participated in Roseburg Sister Cities events in the past.

Meredith Jones - Meredith went to Japan with one of our earlier Delegations and also hosted several Shobu Delegates. She recently donated a beautiful Japanese Doll with glass case to our organization, to use for displays of Japanese arts and crafts.

We send our deepest sympathy to the families of these valued Roseburg Sister Cities participants for their losses and appreciation for their support of our organization.

Five Sister Cities' members interacted with these and additional characters and were transported to their time as they discussed **Cloud of Sparrows** on June 22. The continuation of Matsuoka's chronicle in **Autumn Bridge** was the subject of discussion on August 10th. The group's next book will be **The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet** by Janie Ford, meeting Wed., Oct. 26, at Prudential Realty, 6:30 pm.

Creative Crafts

By Diana Brown

A gathering of kids as one person referred to it... But our Boys and Girls Club *creative crafts* event couldn't have turned out better.

Charlee Spears, Diana Brown, and Marie Rasmussen (others helped too) teamed-up to instruct many kids in the art of making special cards and accordion books. This project challenged the kids to think outside the norm and create something new and different; as well as fitting the occasion. The children were to create images of support to be sent to our Roseburg Sister City in Shobu, Japan.

There were many choices for artist's imagination. In fact, too many choices at times! But perseverance prevailed, and the work of these kids was just amazing. All of the works were outstanding, but one piece was exceptional. One girl wrote she had been born in Japan and when she saw the disaster on TV she could not keep from crying. Her words fit her age but her sympathy was that of a grown-up.

On Monday, the 28th of March, they were mailed to Tomoko Shimazaki at the Choryuji School.



Wine, Art, Music Festival

The Umpqua Valley Wine, Art, Music Festival will be held again this year, September 10th & 11th at Umpqua Community College. Our organization plans to have a booth there on Saturday from 11:00 - 8:00, and Sunday from 11:00- 5:00.



Bonseki Demonstration

A unique and interesting demonstration of a very old Japanese form of painting, called Bonseki, will be given at the Umpqua Rock and Gem Club Show on Sunday, Sept 11th at 10:00 a.m. Many sizes of pebbles, rocks, and rock dust are used in the painting and it is becoming a lost art. It will be demonstrated by Herb Bastuscheck, a geologist who lived a number of years in Japan, and while there studied the ancient people of the area, and hunted for and collected many interesting artifacts and rocks.

The demonstration will be held in Douglas Hall at the Fairgrounds and will last about 45 minutes. Herb will be at the show the entire weekend, but is taking time to give the demonstration on Sunday.

Nancy Pittman met Herb when he visited regularly at the school where she was teaching in Misawa, Japan. She says his information and stories are fascinating to hear, and the students always anticipated his arrival.

October 2011 Delegation to Kuki-city (Shobu)

The Delegation to Japan this fall (October 4-13) will be a group of 14 members. The Delegation members are:

Chris Bennett
Burne Bryden
Jon Burpee
Jeannie Burpee
Melissa Christenson
Becky Cotterell
Bob Cotterell
Pat Glass
David Johnston
Janet Johnston – *Delegation Leader*
Nancy Pittman
Sue Ann Rodgers
David Soder
Marliene (Winfield) Swanson

For the first time, the Delegation will have an opportunity to visit the World Heritage village of Shirakawa and view one of the largest Japanese Festivals in the Historic town of Takayama. This is in addition to the home stays and day activities in Kuki-city (Shobu) and the surrounding area.

Plan to attend the Annual Meeting in November and hear reports from the Delegates about their trip. The next trip TO Japan will be in 2013. Consider applying for the 2013 trip for a life-time experience! Contact a Sister Cities Board Member to apply.

*There will NOT be a Delegation visit to Japan in 2012,
so the next visit is planned for 2013.*

Help From Many

After the tragic earthquakes and tsunami in Japan, a number of people, including the Roseburg Sister Cities Board, wanted to help any way they could. The Board voted to send \$500 from the organization to "Peace Winds Japan" to help with their relief effort. Some members contributed money individually, and one person, our Japanese interpreter, Izumi Vialpando, with the help of family and friends, held a garage sale and earned \$2,080 which she sent to the Japanese Red Cross.

Jon and Jeannie Burpee plan to continue to donate money through "The American School in Japan," where their son, Mark, and his wife, Machi, teach. All money donated there goes directly to purchase needed items and food and is delivered by volunteers. When Machi went to the devastated area, they cleaned up debris, washed muddy, contaminated walls in a home, helped build school desks for a temporary school, and cooked meals for 800 refugees. Money can still be given through the school, and all that is donated will go directly to those in need. Mark and Machi are teaching English to their neighbors this summer. The tuition will be donated to tsunami relief.

At the Boys and Girls Club of the Umpqua Valley, Diana Brown, RSC member, along with Marie Rasmussen and Charlee Spears helped Roseburg students create friendship cards with individual messages for the elementary school children in Kuki-city (Shobu). The cards were sent directly to Tomoko Shimazaki, the elementary school director who then distributed them.

Carnival Booth at St. Paul's

St. Paul Lutheran School in Roseburg has a yearly carnival. This year it was held on April 15th and its theme was "A Trip to the Orient." Yumi Castle, whose children attend the school, invited Roseburg Sister Cities to participate. Akiyo Riggs and Marliene Swanson organized a booth similar to the "Celebration of Literacy" booth at the Mall in February. Children wrote their names in English on bookmarks, and then Akiyo and Yumi helped them write their names in Katakana. If they wanted, they could also make newspaper Samurai hats, or take a hat that was already made. Marliene and Nancy Pittman helped with the hat making. The Roseburg Sister City banner was displayed and each bookmark had contact information printed on the back. The RSC Brochure and the recent newsletter were also handed out to those who expressed an interest in learning more about the organization.

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School thanked RSC for participating and felt the booth had helped in making their carnival a success. Yumi reported that parents were impressed and some of the students enrolled for next year because of the carnival. She even thinks one child enrolled because of the Roseburg Sister Cities' booth. Our working members felt the booth had been successful in getting more of the community aware of our RSC organization.

(Carnival photos are featured page 5.)

New Sister Cities Banners

For the beautification of downtown Roseburg many local artists created banners to be hung from the streetlight posts. HD Honscheid created two with a Roseburg Sister Cities theme, one for Sister City, Shobu, Japan, and one for Sister City, Aranda de Duero, Spain. The two banners are hanging in front of City Hall for the summer. Go have a look. Enjoy!



New Banners
Downtown!



Fourth of July Event!

Fireworks and giant marshmallows were hits at the Sister Cities Independence Day party hosted by Robert and Gerri Behan. Seventeen old friends and new enjoyed a potluck of snacks and beverages, and became engrossed in conversation. From the Behan's deck, fireworks throughout the area were visible in addition to the big display at Stewart Park. The kids roasted marshmallows 2" in diameter by 2" high over the barbeque with bamboo skewers. A great time was had by all.



Kazuko-san, We Miss You

By Yuki Taylor

April Fool's Day Kazuko-san passed away. We came home from our trip early that morning. It was hard to believe at first. I had talked to her the day before we left to go to Italy. She sounded better than when I had talked to her before.

I think about her often, especially when I think of us working together at the Obon Festival. She was having health problems at that time. Whenever I asked her if she could help me with sushi making, she always said, "Yes." We worked long, hard days but she never complained. I think we worked together for four seasons.

Kazuko-san always had a smile on her face and she always said nice things about her friends. I asked her to go to Shobu with us. She said, "Someday I would like to go with you." Someday never arrived.

We all miss her very much, especially the group of Japanese ladies that get together for luncheon.

Kazuko-san, may you rest in peace.



RSC Garden Work Party

Ron Johnson from the Wolf Creek Job Corp brought an industrious crew of seven Job Corp students to weed, prune, and clean up the Friendship Gardens located behind the Douglas County Library on Thursday, May 19th. The students were: Steven Elrod, Zach Cooper, Ryan Etchinson, Jessy Armstrong, Daniel Boyson, Andrew Kilmer, and Delonna Wikoff. They brought heavy duty, sharp tools which helped control the runaway bamboo. Paul Gorniak supplied garbage bags for carrying away the debris.



Una Honscheid met with Marliene Swanson at 9:00 a.m. before the crew arrived to plan what work should be done. Don Duerfeldt and John Armes also joined the work party for the morning. The cool wet spring turned the gardens into beautiful bouquets of iris and azaleas along with lovely foliage. The Friendship Gardens are looking very nice now and will receive a second "going over" later when Rolf Bloomquist brings the Middle School Exchange Group to work.

Please contact Marliene Swanson at marlieneswanson@yahoo.com or call 541-672-1014 if you wish to be part of one of the Garden Work Parties.



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)

Travel as Delegate

Special Committees: Future Board

Member Membership

Speaker Bureau member Displays-help do
 Newsletter

Japanese Lang./Interpreter Japanese Film

Festival Storage Room

Nov. Annual Dinner-helper

Historian/Scrapbook

*The next newsletter publication is **Fall '11.***

*Ideas, comments, suggestions, or submitting articles, please contact Jonna Wagner at **530-3184** (leave message please)*

or e-mail scrappinrealtor@yahoo.com

(Also contact to be removed from mailing list.)

St. Paul Lutheran Carnival



St. Paul Lutheran School in Roseburg has a yearly carnival. This year it was held on April 15th and its theme was "A Trip to the Orient."