

# The Bridge

February 2008

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

## The President's Corner by Janet Johnston

Happy Spring!...Can you believe that the bulbs are coming up already and will be blooming soon? Your Board of Directors and members have been working hard to organize the Sister Cities activities for this year and are looking for your participation to make them successful.

You can be involved this year and enrich your lives with these great opportunities, as follows:

**March 19<sup>th</sup>** – Join us for dinner to honor Master Yasuo Nakajima and Mr. Katsumi Shibuya during their short visit to Roseburg. See details in a separate article in this newsletter.

**June 19-26<sup>th</sup>** – Join us to pick up the Shobu Delegation in Portland on June 19, participate in the June 20<sup>th</sup> daytime activities and/or the Welcome Reception that evening, join us at the Farewell Potluck the afternoon/evening of June 22<sup>nd</sup>, or come with us on the **North Coast and Portland excursion June 23rd-26<sup>th</sup>** as part of our support team.



We will also be looking for **Host Families for our Delegates for June 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>**. Details in a separate article in this newsletter. A quick note, email or call to me to let us know of your interest in participating will greatly help us with our planning for these events. Part of the planning process is knowing how many to expect AND this will often impact the cost for each participant as well.

**October 22-30<sup>th</sup>** - The visit to Japan by our local Delegation. Applications are circulating now and we hope to make a decision on the participants in March, so everyone can make plans for this memorable trip! See details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Also look for articles in this newsletter on the **new Book Club starting in April** and our **Garden 'Parties'** to maintain the **Sister Cities garden** behind the Douglas County Library along Deer Creek...we have events for most interests!

*President's Corner continued on Page 2...*

### **Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.**

P.O. Box 1643

Roseburg, Oregon 97470

[www.roseburg-sister-cities.org](http://www.roseburg-sister-cities.org)



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

## Book Club Starting in April!

Like us, you are interested in Japanese culture and history. Perhaps, like us, you like to read. Let's combine the two and start a book club!

There are many books on Japanese history and customs and novels that depict life in Japan at various times. Current Japanese literature is at the forefront of avant-garde reading. There is no shortage of books about a subject in which we share an interest!

*The first two dates and selections for our book club are:*



Wednesday, **April 23, 2008**: **Some Prefer Nettles** by Junichiro Tanazaki, 1955. Tanazaki (1886-1965) is one of the greatest Japanese writers, and he was nominated for a Nobel Prize in literature. A reviewer called this book "an important work both as a revealing glimpse into the inner spiritual problem of modern Japan and as a novel of broader human significance. This book is widely available new and used (including [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)) *(cont'd on page 3)*

**Setsubun** ("seasonal division") is a festival held on **February 3 or 4**, one day before the start of spring



according to the Japanese lunar calendar. Setsubun is not a national holiday.

For many centuries, the people of Japan have been performing rituals with the purpose of chasing away evil spirits at the start of spring.

Around the 13th century, for example, it became a custom to drive away evil spirits by the strong smell of burning dried sardine heads, the smoke of burning wood and the noise of drums. While this custom is not popular anymore, a few people still decorate their house entrances with fish heads and holy tree leaves in order to deter evil spirits from entering.

In modern days, the most commonly performed Setsubun ritual is the throwing of roasted beans around one's house and at temples and shrines across the country. ***When throwing the beans, you are supposed to shout "Oni wa soto! Fuku wa uchi!" ("Devils out, happiness in").***

Afterwards you should pick up and eat the number of beans, which corresponds to your age.

As all traditional festivals, Setsubun is celebrated in many variations throughout the country.

Source: [www.japan-guide.com](http://www.japan-guide.com)

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## 'President's Message' continued...

I have had good response to my request **for email addresses to disseminate our newsletter** in color and at minimal cost for our organization, but I know there are others who may have just forgotten to respond, so if you are receptive to this method of receiving our newsletter and other important messages from Roseburg Sister Cities, please send me your email address (see mine below).

Please don't hesitate to call, email or send me a note with any of your questions, comments, concerns or suggestions...we want this to be our best year ever for Sister Cities!

Sincerely,  
Janet Johnston  
(541) 430-2885; [janetjohnston@prurep.com](mailto:janetjohnston@prurep.com)  
PO Box 1643, Roseburg OR 97470

## HOST FAMILIES FOR JUNE 2008 SHOBU DELEGATION

Widen your horizons, make new friends, and create a memorable experience!

We are looking for a few Host Families to host one or two Delegates of the June Delegation from our Sister City in Shobu, Japan.

This year the Delegation will be in Roseburg the nights of Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, leaving the morning of Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> for a 3-day trip to the North Oregon Coast. Host families are welcome to participate in the coast trip and/or Portland for the farewell on June 25-26<sup>th</sup>, but not obligated, if their schedules do not allow. We will be having the Welcome Reception on Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup> and the Farewell Dinner on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, so those will be group events.

Host families will have Saturday and Sunday, prior to the Farewell dinner, to spend individual time and activities with the Delegate.

Please contact **Janet Johnston as soon as possible for more information**, and an application to be a Host Family. As soon as we receive the List of Delegates, Host Families will be assigned and provided information for the Delegate they will be hosting.

Janet Johnston:  
(541) 430-2885; [janetjohnston@prurep.com](mailto:janetjohnston@prurep.com)

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## Notes from the Friendship Garden

In an effort to keep the Sister Cities Friendship Garden looking neat and inviting for those who walk through it. Jeannie Burpee, in her years as Garden Committee Chair, arranged a schedule for its upkeep. I am intending to continue with the same schedule as it has worked so well.

Late in February or early in March, and again in September, a group from the Wolf Creek Job Corps will come in to do some weeding, and to spread truckloads of mulch. These young people always do an outstanding job, and we are lucky to have their help.

(...continued on back page.)

## **'Book Club' continued from page 1...**

Wednesday, June 11, 2008: **The Last Shogun, The Life of Tokugawa Yoshinobu** by Ryotaro Shiba, published 1998 by Kodansha America, Inc. (original copyright 1967.) Translated from the Japanese by Juliette Winters Campbell. "A mesmerizing tale"

These two titles give only a glimpse into the richness of the literature available to those of us who would like to increase our understanding of "things Japanese." We might have fun getting to better know each other.

So, how about it? **If you are interested, please contact us. An email to both of us would be good, in case either of us is away. We will put you on an email reminder list and send you a**

**notice in April, including the location** of our 7:00 PM meeting. Please feel free to share this invitation with others who might be interested.

Hope to be talking books with you soon!

- Jeannie Burpee  
[jcburpee@msn.com](mailto:jcburpee@msn.com)
- Georgia French  
[frenchwoman@myway.com](mailto:frenchwoman@myway.com)



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## **SPECIAL VISIT TO ROSEBURG – March 18-20<sup>th</sup>**

We are pleased to announce that **Master Yasuo Nakajima and Mr. Katsumi Shibuya will be visiting Roseburg** to see friends and Sister Cities members. As some of you will recall, these two men were very involved with our early years of the Sister Cities organization and instrumental in our success and financial footing:

**MASTER NAKAJIMA** – The early Delegations in the 1990s visited Master Nakajima's 'Konya' facility in Hanyo City where he operates an Indigo Dying factory. They grow the indigo plant, have the large indigo vats and drying areas, for use in their manufacturing of indigo fabrics. They also have instructional classes and a sales office for their indigo products. Master Nakajima's family has been operating this factory for at least 4 generations and he has been nominated to be named a "National Treasure" in Japan. He was generous to us in teaching at a week long Indigo Workshop in Roseburg – Indigo Northwest in 1996 and came back to assist us with Indigo dying at one of our Arts Festival booths. He is a frequent visitor to San Francisco, where he currently teaches Indigo dying classes and workshops several times a year.

**Mr. Katsumi Shibuya** – Mr. Shibuya was involved from the beginning of the Middle School Exchanges in arranging for the activities for the students, in his role in the Shobu Planning Dept. When our Adult Sister Cities program began and for a number of years thereafter, Mr. Shibuya was responsible for making all the arrangements for our Delegation Visits to Shobu. He has visited Roseburg several times as well, so many of you will remember him.

Please join us on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at a no-host Dinner to honor and visit with these two Men who have been so instrumental in the success of our Sister Cities program.

Please **RSVP to Janet Johnston @ 430-2885 for location and Dinner costs no later than March 14<sup>th</sup>**. The location & dinner costs will depend on the number of participants so have not been finalized at the time of this newsletter being published.

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## **APPLY NOW TO PARTICIPATE IN A MEMORABLE LIFETIME EXPERIENCE!**

We are now taking applications to participate in the October Delegation to Japan – October 22 to 30<sup>th</sup>.

This year the Delegation will be visiting Mt Fuji and surrounding areas on their 3 day excursion from Shobu, in addition to several nights with Host Families in Shobu and local activities during their stay in Japan.

Just ask anyone who has participated in these Delegations previously and they will tell you that they have never had a traveling experience like it, even those who have previously done extensive traveling in locations around the world. This is a unique opportunity to see Japan as you never could as just a 'tourist' and make new friends – guided by our Shobu Sister City friends and dignitaries.

Please remember, speaking Japanese is NOT a prerequisite and very few of those participating speak Japanese...you will be amazed to see how you can communicate without language skills and how a few words and customs learned at our trip planning meetings will help to 'bridge the gap' for an enjoyable and memorable visit to promote 'friendship and understanding' between us.

Please contact Janet Johnston, President and Delegation Leader for 2008, for questions, details on costs and to receive an application to participate.

There is a maximum of 20 for the Delegation! We are requesting that applications be returned by March 20<sup>th</sup>, so there will be time to make the final selection of participants during March and to give the Delegates and our Shobu organizers sufficient time to plan for this trip.

----- *Clip & Mail* -----

*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 Room

**Liaisons:**  Japanese students UCC/RHS     City

Hall/Chamber Commerce

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*The next newsletter publication is April 2008. Ideas, comments, suggestions, or submitting articles, please contact Jonna Wagner at 430-2325 or e-mail [jonna@wagnerteam.net](mailto:jonna@wagnerteam.net) (Also contact to be removed from mailing list.)*



**Garden Notes continued...**

In April or May, middle school students have, in the past, helped out with weeding. This step was missed last year, due to unforeseen circumstances, but we look forward to having their help again this year.

In June, before the delegation from Shobu arrives, a call will be sent out to all those Sister City members who have shown an interest in helping out in the garden to come out with gloves, rakes, pruners, etc., to make things all tidy before our guests get here. We always have a fun time doing this, and I encourage any of you not on our volunteer list to think about joining us.

In October or November another call will go out for another "Garden Party", and we will tidy the garden up for the winter. Please contact me at [una@jeffnet.org](mailto:una@jeffnet.org) if you would like to be put on our volunteer list.

