



# The Bridge

February 2009

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

## The President's Corner with Janet Johnston

We are looking forward to 2009 being another busy year for Roseburg Sister Cities – Shobu.

We will have a Children's Activity Booth at the Celebration of Literacy on Feb 21, again this year, with Marliene (Winfield) Swanson, as Chair. If you indicated an interest in helping with this activity, she may be calling you to fill the work schedule.

February 26th to March 8th - Our good friends from Shobu, Mr. Chiaki and Mrs. Yasuko Koyama and one of our favorite interpreters, Sumiko Komatsu have generously volunteered to come to Roseburg and teach classes for the Master Gardeners, Extension Service and help with our Friendship Garden behind the Library. We hope you will have an opportunity to greet them while they are here and let them know how much we appreciate their visit! Read more about their activities elsewhere in this newsletter.

We are making plans for the June Visitation from Shobu and will be lining up Host Families as soon as we know who is coming and how many. If you are interested in serving as a Host Family this year, please let me know and I'll be in contact as we get closer with an application and details. We are also looking for volunteers to be involved in the local activities and the 3 day trip to the Columbia Gorge area, while our guests are here from Shobu. This is a great way to get to see Shobu friends you may have met in the past, or make new friends!

The October Delegation selection process has started and we have already had interest expressed by members at the Annual Meeting last November. We are planning to have the Delegation members selected prior to the June Visitation, so if you are interested in being considered to join the October Delegation to Shobu, please let me know as soon as possible. This year the group will be going to the Nagano area (also known as the Japanese Alps-always a beautiful and interesting area to visit!)

*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

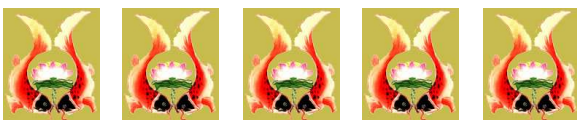
## COMMUNITY EVENTS!



The Douglas County Library in conjunction with the Oregon Library Association will be highlighting the book "**Stubborn Twigs**" as part of the OREGON READS celebration in conjunction with Oregon's Celebration of 150th year of statehood.

**LIBRARY DISPLAY:** During March, there will be a display set up in the Library and Roseburg Sister Cities is loaning some display materials from our collection for them to use. Also on display will be some of the books prior Shobu Delegations have donated to the Library.

**STORYTELLER PROGRAM:** There will also be a program on **March 21 at 1:00 pm** in the **Ford Family room at the Library**. The program will feature, *true "heroes", stories of Japanese Americans during World War II, presented by award winning storyteller, Alton Chung*. There will be a \$5.00 charge to cover costs and donation to Friends of the Library. For more information, please contact the Douglas County Library, 440-4305.



# STORAGE ROOM NEEDS

Roseburg Sister Cities is fortunate to have a nice storage room in which to keep our Japanese gifts, decor and event supplies, but we are in need of shelving to better organize these materials and store them in a safe manner. If you have some extra shelving that you would be willing to donate, please contact Janet Johnston, 430-2885.



## Alpha Sudoku Puzzle

Place a letter from A to I in each empty cell so every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains all the letters A to I.

	B			H		I	D	
	D	G	A		B			
H			F			B	G	E
D	G	A	B		H			C
I	F		G		C		A	B
C			I		A	F	H	G
G	C	E			F			I
			C		I	G	E	
	I	F		G			C	

source: [sudokucollection.com](http://sudokucollection.com)

D	C	V	E	Q	H	F	I	B
F	Q	I	B	C	D	H	V	A
I	B	H	F	A	D	E	C	G
Q	H	F	A	D	I	B	E	C
B	V	A	B	C	D	E	F	H
C	I	F	H	E	V	A	D	B
E	B	Q	D	C	I	F	A	H
H	D	G	A	I	B	C	F	H
F	B	C	E	H	G	I	D	V

# President's Message Continued

Please step up and volunteer to assist us with our activities, I guarantee you'll gain a better understanding of our Exchange program and we need your help to keep our organization strong for the future!

Sincerely,  
Janet Johnston, 2009 RSC President

## HOST FAMILIES & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR JUNE DELEGATION

There is still time to submit your name for hosting a visitor from Japan this June. We are finalizing the dates and will be assigning Host Families as soon as we receive the list of members of the June Delegation from Shobu.

We expect that the Delegation will be in Roseburg either the 2nd or 3rd weekend of June and will be staying with Host families 4 nights (Thursday through Sunday nights) and then leaving on a Monday for a 3 day trip up through the Columbia Gorge area as far as The Dalles, before flying back to Shobu from Portland.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with local activities and/or accompany the Delegation on the 3 day bus trip to the Columbia Gorge area.

Please contact Janet Johnston @ 430-2885 or [janetjohnston@prurep.com](mailto:janetjohnston@prurep.com) for details or hosting application.

## Roseburg Sister Cities 2009 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

### Officers:

President	Janet Johnston
Vice President	Nancy Andrich
Secretary	John Cozier
Treasurer	Kevin Carson

### Remaining Board Members:

Dr. Jon Burpee, Katherine Elisar, Kim Gandy  
Dr. Terri Lundy, Betti Manfre, Nancy Pittman  
Larry Shipley, & Dr. David Soder

### Committee Chairs:

Aranda de Duero Liaison:	Nancy Pittman
Book Club:	Georgia French & Jeanne Burpee
Display Cases:	Betti Manfre & Katherine Elisar
Garden:	Una Honscheid
Middle School Exchange Liaison:	Elizabeth Clawson
Newsletter Gal:	Jonna Wagner
Publicity:	Diana Brown

## 'Book Club' Nook

The Japanese interest book group met in early January for a great discussion of *The Tale of Murasaki*. Members (small in number but big on enthusiasm) have chosen books for the next three meetings:

**March 18th:** *STUBBORN TWIG*, 2005 (paperback edition 2008) by Lauren Kessler. This book is about an Oregon Japanese-American family's experience in a WWII detention camp.

**May 6th:** *THE BROTHERS*, 1995, by Lesley Downer. This book tells the story of the Tsutsumi family, Japan's greatest business dynasty.

**Our summer book:** (date to be determined) will be *MUSUI'S STORY: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A*

*TOKUGAWA SAMURAI*, 1991 by Katsu Koichi and Teruko Craig.

At this time our meetings are set for 6pm in Roseburg (Wednesday evenings), but depending upon members' needs, this might change. If you would like to join us, contact Georgia French at: [gfrench@rosenet.net](mailto:gfrench@rosenet.net), 459-2416 for further information and to verify the time and place of the meeting. Happy Reading!

**"Note** - The book "**Stubborn Twig**" has also been selected by the Oregon Library Association for all Oregonians to read as part of the celebration of Oregon's 150th year of statehood in 2009. Governor

Kulongoski, in a foreword for the book, says "It is a moving, uncompromising, and most of all inspiring story of the Japanese immigrant experience in Oregon."

Any questions, you can also email:

- Jeannie Burpee  
[jcburpee@msn.com](mailto:jcburpee@msn.com)
- Georgia French  
[gfrench@rosenet.net](mailto:gfrench@rosenet.net)



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## CHIAKI AND YASUKO KOYAMA AND SUMIKO KOMATSU VISIT!

February 26 to March 9, 2009



Mr. & Mrs. Koyama and Mrs. Komatsu will be arriving in Portland on **Thursday, February 26**. During their stay, their lodging will be shared between Wally & Yuki Taylor and Dr. David & Kellene Soder. **March 8th**, they will be taken to Portland for their return flight back to Shobu, Japan.

**Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>:** OSU Extension Service and Douglas County Master Gardeners "**Spring Into Gardening**" Workshops at Umpqua Community College – 8:45 am to 4 pm. Cost: \$20.00 for up to 4 classes + \$10 each for the Bonsai or Ikebana class materials.

Mr. Koyama will be presenting a "**Principles of Bonsai**" Class from 1:00 to 2:30 pm & Mrs. Koyama will be presenting "**The Art of Ikebana, Ikenobo Style**" (Japanese flower arranging) Class from 2:30 to 4:00 pm – both classes with the help of Mrs. Komatsu, Interpreter. These will be 'hands on' classes!

For further information or to register for the class contact: Oregon State Extension Service – 672-4461.

**Monday & Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Discovery Gardens (by River Forks Park) Mr. & Mrs. Koyama will be working with the Master Gardeners on improvements to the Discovery Gardens.

**Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>:** Roseburg Sister Cities will be sponsoring a **Japanese Dinner** to be held in a private home, so attendance will be limited to 30. Mrs. Koyama & Mrs. Komatsu will be demonstrating Japanese food preparation and other demonstrations are planned. *If interested, contact Diana Brown @ 440-2697 for details.*

If you are interested in seeing Mr. & Mrs. Koyama and/or Mrs. Komatsu during their visit here, please *contact Janet Johnston @ 430-2885 or [janetjohnston@prurep.com](mailto:janetjohnston@prurep.com)* as there may be time available in between the scheduled activities.

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## October Delegation to Japan!

A Life-changing experience awaits those who join the '**09 Delegation to Japan!** Each year, even well-seasoned travelers tell us they have never experienced a trip like ours to Japan. The hospitality provided by our Shobu friends is unsurpassed,

& the opportunity to stay in local homes, & enjoy family activities with Host Families is quite unique. In addition, the Delegation will also be taking a 3-day, 2-night trip to the Nagano area (the Japanese Alps) & the site of the '96 Winter Olympics!

*The '09 Delegation is already starting to fill up, so let us know right away if you are interested in being considered. We'll send you an application & more information.*

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

## *Please Join or Renew Membership!*

\_\_\_ New Membership \_\_\_ Renewing Membership  
(\$25 Per Household, Tax Deductible)

Make checks payable to: Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.  
Print & 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 **June 09**. Ideas, comments, suggestions,  
or submitting articles, please contact Jonna Wagner at **530-3184** or e-mail  
scrappinrealtor@yahoo.com (Also contact to be removed from mailing list.)*

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## Japanese Holidays

- February 3 **Beginning of Spring (setsun)**:  
Setsun is not a national holiday, but celebrated at shrines and temples nationwide..
- February 11 (national holiday) **National Foundation Day (kenkoku kinenbi)**:  
According to the earliest Japanese history records, on this day in the year 660 BC the first Japanese emperor was crowned.
- February 14 **Valentine's Day**:  
In Japan, women give chocolates to men on Valentine's Day. It is not a national holiday.
- March 3 **Doll's Festival (hina matsuri)**:  
Also called girl's festival. More information is available on the Doll's Festival page.
- March 14 **White Day**:  
The opposite of Valentine's Day: Men give cakes or chocolates to women. It is not a national holiday. Around March 20 (national holiday) **Spring Equinox Day**
- **(shunbun no hi)**:  
Graves are visited during the week (ohigan) of the Equinox Day.
- April 29 (national holiday) **Showa Day (Showa no hi)**:  
The birthday of former Emperor Showa. Before 2007, April 29 was known as Greenery Day (now celebrated on May 4). Showa Day is part of the Golden Week.
- May 3 (national holiday) **Constitution Day (kenpo kinenbi)**:  
A national holiday remembering the new constitution, which was put into effect after the war.
- May 4 (national holiday) **Greenery Day (midori no hi)**:  
Until 2006, Greenery Day was celebrated on April 29, the former Emperor Showa's birthday, due to the emperor's love for plants and nature. It is now celebrated on May 4 and is part of the Golden Week.
- May 5 (national holiday) **Children's Day (kodomo no hi)**:  
Also called boy's festival.

Source, & for more information: [www.japan-guide.com](http://www.japan-guide.com)



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- **Feb. 26, The Koyamas' & Mrs. Komatsu visit!**
- **March 18, Book Club!**
- **March 21, Storyteller Program, Library!**

**A 'red stripe' on your label means we haven't received your 2009 dues.  
Please show your support by renewing today. Thank you!**