



The Bridge

Winter 2011

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

The President's Corner by Nancy Pittman

Meet The New President!

I was recently selected as the new President of the Roseburg Sister Cities Board of Directors. I'd like to introduce myself. I'm Nancy Pittman. I have been active on the Board for two terms and my husband, Rick, and I have participated in welcoming several delegations and accompanying them on the Oregon trips. We have been to



Shobu once and our son was in the very first exchange of junior high students. Our experiences have been very positive and we have enjoyed the new relationships we have formed with the residents of Shobu and the people here in Roseburg. The new Board is a great team of dedicated people with varied talents. The twelve of us are working together to make this a good year for the organization.



Nancy Pittman, New President!

Members Attend Eugene Asian Celebration

On Saturday, February 19th, Board Members Connie Kloha and Thomas McGregor, and Roseburg Sister Cities Member Steve Erickson, along with other friends and family members, attended the 26th annual Asian Celebration at the Lane County Fairgrounds in Eugene. The two-day event featured youth activities and crafts, entertainment, an Asian marketplace, and foods representing a wide variety of Asian cultures. There were martial arts demonstrations and performances by 15 different martial arts schools, and a performance by The Portland Taiko, one of the west coast's premier Taiko drumming groups. One hall featured a fine arts exhibit and a preview of a three-day anime convention experience with popular video games and karaoke. Many teenagers and young adults were dressed as anime characters. This was a great family event, with something to offer people of all ages, and it is hoped that more Roseburg Sister Cities members will get a chance to enjoy this Asian Celebration next year and in the years to come!



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

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

RSC Participates in Celebration of Literacy

Roseburg Sister Cities was well represented at the Celebration of Literacy event in the Roseburg Mall on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2011. This is the 5th year that Marliene Swanson and Akiyo Riggs have organized an outreach activity for RSC. Akiyo recruited a crew of able Katakana experts to help attendees write their names in English and Japanese on book marks with contact information printed on the back. Our Katakana experts included Faye Fusayo Andrews; Martha Scott; Teddy Brooks, a South Umpqua High School student; Toshie Anderson; Yumi Castle; Noriko Corrado, and Akiyo Riggs. Helping make origami valentines were Diana Brown, Nancy Pittman and the Anderson boys, Yamato and Kaito.

Liz Vajda and Marliene brought their laptops to show pictures of past visits to Shobu. H.D. Honscheid and Liz furnished the pictures for the viewing. Jon and Jeannie Burpee came for a short visit to see how things were going, and Barbara Iwata and Johanna Wingert also stopped by to help.

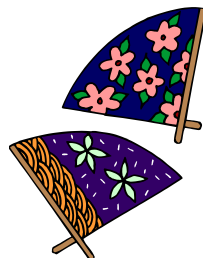
The children and adults seemed equally intrigued with writing names in Katakana. It was estimated that at least two hundred of them stopped at the booth and took advantage of the opportunity to learn a new skill for this event.

A huge "Domo Arigato Gozaimasu" to all who helped make this a successful Roseburg Sister Cities outreach. A special thanks to Mike Standsbury who lent his computer knowledge to get the laptop slide shows up and running.

Members to Attend "The Mikado"

On Sunday, March 13th, twelve Roseburg Sister Cities members will be attending the matinee performance of "The Mikado," at the Hult Performing Arts Center in Eugene. "The Mikado," a comic operetta written by Gilbert and Sullivan, takes place in the mythical Japanese town of Titipu and was written to satire British politics and institutions by disguising them as Japanese. The main character, Ko-Ko, "a cheap tailor," is played by Curt Olds, a master of comic timing, and "his lovely ward," Yum-Yum, is played by Christiane Noll, a Tony Award-nominee.

If this sounds interesting to you and you would like to see this operetta, it will also be performed on March 11th and 12th at 7:30 pm. Contact the Hult Box Office at 541-682-5000 for tickets. A limited number of seats are still available. *If you would like to carpool with our group on March 13th, contact Connie Kloha at 541-637-0517.*



Book Club Meeting!

The upcoming Book Club meetings will be held on:

- **April 27th:** discuss The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet, 2010, David Mitchell.
- **June 22nd:** discuss Cloud of Sparrows, 2004, Takashi Matsuoka.

More Information:

Georgia French, gfrench@rosenet.net,
Jeannie Burpee, jcburpee@msn.com



Photos: H.D. Honscheid

Book Club News!

The **Japan Interest Book Group** had a great discussion of Shogun in early February. The book was far richer in detail and history than we remembered from our earlier reading and the television series. It led us to learn more about James Clavell and we all came away with more knowledge and respect for his scholarship, even though he didn't quite get all the details exactly right. We selected two more novels set in approximately the same era to continue our explorations. We invite anyone interested to join us --- read the book and come to talk about it, or come to learn about it even if you haven't read it! For further information contact Georgia French, gfrench@rosenet.net, Jeannie Burpee, jcburpee@msn.com

On April 27th, we will discuss The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet, 2010, David Mitchell. Here is the *Amazon.com* review:

David Mitchell reinvents himself with each book, and it's thrilling to watch. His novels like *Ghostwritten* and *Cloud Atlas* spill over with narrators and language, collecting storylines connected more in spirit than in fact. In *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet*, he harnesses that plenitude into a more traditional form, a historical novel set in Japan at the turn into the 19th century, when the island nation was almost entirely cut off from the West except for a tiny, quarantined Dutch outpost. Jacob is a pious but not unappealing prig from Zeeland, whose self-driven duty to blurt the truth...

On June 22nd, we will discuss Cloud of Sparrows, 2004, Takashi Matsuoka. Here is the *Amazon.com* review:

Following in the substantial footsteps of filmmaker Akira Kurosawa and Shogun author James Clavell is Takashi Matsuoka, whose action-packed debut novel, *Cloud of Sparrows*, unfolds as the age of the samurai warrior starts to wane. The year is 1861, and Lord Genji of Akaoka, last in line of the Okamichi clan, welcomes missionaries Emily, Matthew, and Zephaniah to Japan. Cut off from the West for more than 2,000 years, Japan is as completely unprepared for these outsiders as the missionaries are for geishas and honor killings...

Recipe Corner! Let's Share!

TORI ZOSUI (CHICKEN RICE SOUP)

Submitted by Connie Kloha

Ingredients:

4 cups dashi*
5 ounces skinless boneless chicken breast cut 2" long ¼ inch wide
1 teaspoon light or reg. soy sauce
2 tablespoons mirin**
1 teaspoon salt
3 cups day old cooked white rice
3 eggs, lightly beaten
Garnish: rayu (chile flavored sesame oil) if desired
Finely chopped green onion



Boil chicken in dashi and skim off foam. Add soy sauce, mirin, salt and rice and boil for 3 minutes uncovered. Slowly pour egg over tines of fork. Cover and cook 1-2 minutes.

Garnish with green onion. Simple, quick and tasty; great for any meal of the day.

Variation: Substitute 1 package of tofu for the chicken.

* Dashi is a fish-flavored stock. There is a product called "Hon-dashi", which is a granular bouillon-like substance, available at most Asian markets. You typically mix 1 tsp. with 1cup of water.



**Mirin is a Japanese rice wine used in cooking and you can find it in local stores.

We encourage other members to submit recipes for publication in our newsletter!

2011 October Delegation to Shobu

The October Delegation members for 2011 are being finalized and the first organizational meeting for the Delegation is being planned for April, with several additional planning meetings prior to the trip.

This year's Delegation, October 5-13, is being treated to a brand new itinerary, which will take us to another beautiful area of Japan – the Gifu area. (www.hidanet.ne.jp/e02/ematsuri/ekigen.html) Takayama is a beautifully preserved historical city and we will be fortunate to visit there during one of their two famous annual festivals! Shirakawa-go (shirakawa-go.org/english/index.html) is a very interesting, beautiful & unique area in the mountains and has been named as a UNESCO World Heritage Site! In addition, we will also visit Kurikami – a part of the Japanese Alps National Park area.

We are still taking names for alternates, in case a delegate has to drop out, so please contact **Delegation Leader, Janet Johnston at 541-430-2885** or send email to: janetsmail77@gmail.com right away, if you would be interested in participating in the Delegation, but have not turned in an application.

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



Takayama Autumn Festival



Kamikochi Park



Shirakawa Houses



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:

Member Membership

Speaker Bureau member

Newsletter

Japanese Lang./Interpreter

Festival Storage Room

Nov. Annual Dinner-helper

Historian/Scrapbook

The next newsletter publication is **Spring, '11**. 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.)

'11 Eugene Asian Celebration



Submitted by Connie Kloha

Holidays in Japan!

Source: google.com

- Mar 3 **Girls' or Dolls' Festival** (*hina matsuri*)
- Mar 21 **Spring Equinox** (*shunbun no hi*)
- Apr 29 **Showa Day** (*Showa no hi*): birthday of Showa Emperor (Hirohito).
- May 3 **Constitution Day** (*kenpo kinenbi*)
- May 4 **Greenery Day** (*midori no hi*)
- May 5 **Childrens' Day** (Boys' Day) (*kodomo no hi*)

