



WVMSCA

FALL 2012

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- President's message
- Wenatchee World Article
- Welcome reception speech from Mr. Yamamoto
- Pictures from the August delegation trip to Misawa
- A note from the editor
- WVMSCA Business Members

ANNUAL MEETING

**Thursday
November 8th
7:00pm**

John & Pauline
Sweeney home
(boardmember)

142 Springhill
(off 31st)
E. Wenatchee

A message from your president

Dear Sister City Supporters,
This has been quite a year for us! We have gotten back on schedule with two visits from Misawa Delegations and our summer trip to Misawa. The Sister City relationship has continued to be strengthened by outstanding representatives from both Misawa and the Wenatchee Valley.

We've had great support from local businesses as well as our membership. Thanks goes to Olive Garden for excellent meals and service both spring and fall. Thanks to Fujiyama for hosting our Japanese guests this fall. Thanks to Liberty Orchards for their regular gifts of Aplets & Cotlets. Thanks to Town Toyota for always letting us use vans to transport our guests. Thanks to the Cider Mill, Orondo, for tours

and treats. Thanks to the Wenatchee Valley Museum for use of their great facility and group sessions. Thanks to the Wenatchee Wild for continued support. Thanks to



Sumo in training.

McDougal and Sons for tours of their packing plant, Len Pugsley especially. Thanks to the Miss Veedol flyers for flying our guests over the Valley, always a highlight of their stays. Thanks to all the families who have shared their homes with Japanese

guests. And, thanks to the hardworking Sister City Board.

It is the efforts of volunteers that keep our Sister City Association active and vital. This spirit of volunteerism is very impressive to our Japanese friends, yet typical of the Wenatchee Valley. I look forward to another great year in 2013!

David Kelts



Imperial Palace, Tokyo

Trivia Quiz

1. What is the name of the air base located in Misawa?
2. What is the name of the plane piloted in the first successful nonstop trans-Pacific flight landing in East Wenatchee?
3. What is the official tree of Misawa?
4. Name one of the two people who completed the first successful nonstop trans-Pacific flight in 1931?
5. What is the average snowfall in Misawa each year?
6. Wenatchee has the Apple Blossom Festival each May. What is the name of the festival held in the City of Misawa each August?
7. What year was the sister city relationship with Misawa established with East Wenatchee?

East Wenatchee welcomes sister city



Tanner Rockard tries his hand at kendo at a school in Misawa, during the sister city delegation trip in August.

"It was wonderful representing our valley and waving to the crowds and receiving an enthusiastic welcome."

One of the community floats at the Misawa City Festival.



Four delegates from Misawa, Japan, were expected to arrive Thursday to join in many Wings & Wheels festival activities. They also planned to sightsee and tour many places in the area, and join sister city members for meals in private homes.

They were looking forward to touring an apple orchard and packing plant, small plane flights over the valley, judging and awarding a trophy to their favorite car, etc.

Yaichi Yamamoto is the leader of the delegation, representing Misawa's Mayor Taneichi. Mayumi Miyako, another of the delegates from Misawa this year, was a student delegate to our valley in 2001. She is now returning as an adult delegate and as secretary of International Relations Division for Misawa City. The delegation will meet with mayors Steve Lacy and Frank Kuntz.

In August, 21 delegate representing the Wenatchee Valley Misawa Sister City Association took a memorable nine-day trip to Japan. Tim Detering was head of the delegation, and Princess Devyn Huyler represented the Apple Blossom Festival royalty. There were 11 adults and 10 students, ranging in age from 12 to 71!

After a short visit in the Tokyo area, including city tours and a visit to Kamakura and The Dai Buddha, we traveled by bullet train to our sister city — Misawa, Japan.

We met with Mayor Taneichi, sister-city dignitaries and a large, enthusiastic group of supporters at a welcome recep-

tion. We sang The Sukiyaki Song in Japanese, and taught the group The Electric Slide dance at the welcome banquet.

Most group members said the highlight of the trip was time spent with our individual host families — getting to know them and their way of daily life.

One afternoon tour included a tour of Misawa Air Base and lunch with the base commanders. Some activities at the International Center included a tea ceremony, learning to play the koto, writing Japanese characters and being fitted in and given a Japanese yukata which we all wore to the mayor's barbecue that night.

Delegation members participated in the Misawa summer festival parade and proudly wore our sister city happi coats. It was wonderful representing our valley and waving to the crowds and receiving an enthusiastic welcome.

The Wenatchee Valley Misawa Sister City Association (WVMSCA) began in 1981; it is dedicated to furthering the historical significance of the first non-stop trans-Pacific flight by Clyde Pangborn and Hugh Herndon that landed near Fancher Field in October 1931. It also fosters strong friendship and goodwill between the cities of Misawa and Wenatchee and East Wenatchee.

Since 1981, the Wenatchee Valley has exchanged annual visits with Misawa by dignitaries and delegations of adults and students, participating in their respective festival parades and events.

As of 2012, nearly 1,000 citizens of Wenatchee Valley and Misawa have traveled and been introduced to their sister city's cultures, while helping to create meaningful relationships and understanding.

It is common for Wenatchee Valley students who have hosted

Japanese students in their home during Apple Blossom Festival to have the opportunity to stay with that same Japanese student's family in Misawa in August, or perhaps the following August. In this way, new perspectives are gained, views are broadened, language skills are strengthened and lasting family friendships are enhanced.

The WVMSCA maintains a Website- WenatcheeValleyMisawa.org — with more information. Plans are already being made for next year's visit to Misawa in August. Applications will be available on the website for students and adults in December.

David Kelts is president of the Wenatchee Valley Misawa Sister City Association. He served as tour guide and translator for this year's trip to Japan. David is an elementary substitute teacher in the Wenatchee Valley who taught in Misawa for 20 years.

*Printed in the Wenatchee World
October 5, 2012.*



Tea Ceremony at the International Center in Misawa.



Happi coats and blue skies!

WVMSCA

Mr. Yamamoto's speech at the Welcome Reception at East Wenatchee City Hall



**Dai
Buddah,
Kama-
kura,
Japan.**

My name is Yaichi Yamamoto. I am a Misawa City Council member. I am serving as the group leader of Misawa Sister City Friendship and Goodwill Delegation. I brought with me Mr. Susumu Nakanowatari, Director of Misawa City Economic Affairs Department, Ms. Masako Yamamoto, a citizen representative and Ms. Mayumi Miyako, a staff member of Misawa's International Relations Department.

We owe the friendship and goodwill between Misawa and the Wenatchee Valley to so many people who have been playing significant roles. I certainly hope that our visit with you this time will live up to their expectations, and that it will be a fruitful one,

strengthening our relationship further.

I wish to express my great respect to East Wenatchee. You started, and are continuing, your own festival, the Wings and Wheels.

Any community is the stage for each resident to play the protagonist's role in his/her life. And we all live only once. The future of a community depends on the wisdom, passion, courage and practice of each of its members who call the community their home and love it.

Each community member needs to be keenly aware that he/she is part of the source for vitalization of the community, and needs to take I initiative with the spirit of independence and self-help.

In this regard, the Wings and Wheels festival serves as a linchpin and the software for community building as it provides the people here with romanticism, adventures and nostalgia for the history and traditions of the community.

At the same time, the festival is a place for communications where people come together seeking shared feelings. It's a place for unification and solidarity between senders and receivers of messages that deliver humanity, sociality and a sense of participation to the people.

We, the Misawa Sister City delegation, wish to learn from the East Wenatchee festival, its significance and the value underlying the history and culture of the Wenatchee Valley, and incorporate what we learned into the community building back in the City of Misawa.

In closing, I wish for further prosperity of the City of East Wenatchee.. And I thank you in advance for all the opportunities to meet and become friends with as many people as possible during our stay here. Thank you.

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Editor's Note by Jeril Hansen

I'll take a little literary liberty to share some of my thoughts about the most recent delegation trip to Misawa. I can do this because #1. I went on the trip. And #2. I put the newsletter together this month so there's no one to tell me I can't do it! So maybe they won't ask me to do it again.....

Just let me say, if you have an opportunity to go to Misawa, GO! It was one of the best things I've done in my life. The friends made, the sights seen, the sounds heard, the food savored, was simply beyond anything I imagined.

Visually, Japan was stunning and has been on my bucket list of places to go for as long as I can remember. To think I was able to stand in front of the places I had only seen in

photographs was simply overwhelming.

The people everywhere in Japan were all so welcoming and kind. My homestay in Misawa was with Ms. Yoneko Nakano. She owns a karaoke school right next to her house. In the evening, when we had some free moments, I sang Elvis and Beatles songs with my new Japanese friends whom I knew I would never see again—so what did I have to lose. I was just another American who can't sing! Wow, could she sing though! It was a hoot!

For me, however, the best part of my trip was my afternoon at one of their Elder care homes. I know it sounds odd, but this has been my work for over 30 years and to have the opportunity to visit Sky care home was an amazing opportunity. The residents and staff

were lovely. A 98 year old resident sang a special song for me. It was so touching and joyous! The hours went by too fast.

Life is to be lived. Live it well! Don't let another year go by without experiencing everything Misawa and

Japan has to offer. Go! Go now! Find your joy! Or invite one of the next Misawa delegates into your home for a few days. Let's give them what they gave to us. JOY!





Mailing Address:

City of East Wenatchee

Attn: Teresa Allen

271 9th St NE

East Wenatchee, WA 98802

Phone: 509-886-4507

Email: tallen@east-wenatchee.com



Mission Statement:

The mission of the **Wenatchee Valley Misawa Sister City Association** is to strengthen the climate of friendship between the cities of **Misawa, Wenatchee and East Wenatchee** by promoting cultural exchange. The **Association** is dedicated to furthering the historical significance of the first non-stop Trans Pacific flight by **Clyde Pangborn and Hugh Herndon** in **October 1931**.



WVMSCA BUSINESS MEMBERS

BRONZE LEVEL (up to \$100)

Executive Flight, Inc

Ballard Ambulance

Cordell, Neher & Company PLLC

Davis, Arneil Law Firm LLP

First Choice Collision Center

Schurtz Dentistry PLLC

Washington Trust Bank

Wenatchee Valley College

Cashmere Valley Bank—East Wenatchee

Mel Henkel CPA

Town Ford Lincoln

SILVER LEVEL (\$150—\$200)

Buzz Inn Steakhouse—East Wenatchee

GOLD LEVEL (\$250 & above)

(Let's keep growing!)



Japanese Cultural Experience
August 2012
Misawa International Center