



WVMSCA

FALL 2013

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- President's message
- Messages from our mayors
- A message from Queen Emily Abbott
- Pictures from the 2013 delegation trip to Misawa
- A note from the editor

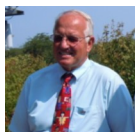
WVMSCA ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday
November
6th
6:30pm

East
Wenatchee
City Hall

Members are
welcome

A message from your president



Dear Sister City Supporters,

It's October! The 2013 Wings and Wheels Festival has come and gone. We missed our Japanese friends! What happened?

Well, Misawa has decided that the expense of sending two groups of delegates each year has become too much. They would like to focus on one festival each year, alternating between Wings and Wheels and Apple Blossom Festival. Since they attended Apple blossom this year, their next official visit may be Wings and Wheels in 2014.

There is a cultural reason for this change. While our Wenatchee Valley Misawa Sister City Association is entirely volunteer, and runs

on memberships and sponsor donations, Misawa City is more financially responsible for the Misawa Sister City expenses. This is in line with Japanese customs. They would like to offer more money to support their students coming to Wenatchee Valley. So, they've decided to cut back to one visit a year.

We sure missed seeing them this October. It seemed very strange for our Board to not be running around setting up tours and dinners. We hope our outstanding supporters will understand this change and keep up with our new schedule.

We still have our yearly trip to Misawa planned for August, 2014. It is shaping up to be another exciting

adventure. We encourage all of you to keep up your support and help spread the news of how life changing a visit to Misawa, and staying with a wonderful Japanese host family can be!

We look forward to another year of advancing friendships and understanding between our cultures in 2014!

David Kelts

永遠的朋友

Eternal
Friendship

Trivia Quiz

1. Japan's population is estimated to around a) 25,000,000 b) 50,000,000 c) 100,000,000 d) 200,000,00
2. True or False. Most streets in Japan do not have a name.
3. What is the official national flower of Japan? a) Cherry blossom b) Chrysanthemum c) Plum blossom d) Not yet declared e) a or c
4. What is the Japanese term for cherry blossom? a) Ume b) Yamabuki c) Sakura d) Kobai e) none of the above
5. In Japanese culture, who should be given chocolates and gifts on Valentines Day? A) the man b) the woman c) everyone d) the Japanese don't celebrate Valentine's Day
6. The famed Japanese dish sushi is composed mainly of a) fish, sweet egg b) seafood, vegetables c) rice vegetables d) fish, rice e) a or d
7. The indigenous religion of Japan is a) Buddhism b) Taoism c) Christianity d) Confucianism e) Shintoism



Two for the road.

"The welcome we received in Misawa was wonderful. We were all treated like royalty!"



Mayor Kuntz tripping the light fantastic in Misawa. Who is that in the background? Could it be an Elvis sighting?

A Message from Mayor Steve Lacy

"As has been the case for many years, our August, 2013 delegation trip to Misawa, Japan was fun, exhausting, memorable, and well worth the effort for all involved. Highlights this year included the fact that it was Mayor Frank Kuntz' first visit to our sister city and the first time that both mayors attended with the delegation. The only other time that both mayors from our valley visited Misawa together was in 2011 when the visit occurred to celebrate Miss Veedol's return to Misawa. That year no delegation went to Misawa due to the Sendai tsunami. I am sure I speak for both Mayor Kuntz and myself in saying that we thoroughly enjoyed our trip together and the events we participated in with Mayor Taneichi and all the Misawa city officials. We were both especially proud of the job done by our entire Apple Blossom royal court. Queen Emily, Princess Madi and Princess Maggie were great ambassadors for our valley."

As usual the delegation enjoyed sightseeing in Tokyo on our first full day in Japan. Most of the 19 delegates also enjoyed a day trip to the Toshogu Shrine at Nikko the day before we traveled by bullet train to Misawa. There we attended a Japanese traditional bathhouse (onsen) and viewed 1600 year old elaborately decorated Shinto temples in the heart of the Japanese mountains. Later, at Misawa, city and sister city officials treated the delegation to a day of Japanese cultural experiences, from visiting the first western style farm in Japan, to dressing up in traditional Japanese dress (sukatos), playing Japanese folk instruments, and learning to make sushi. Of course, the highlight for every delegate was spending time in close association with a host family, forming and renewing friendships that will last a lifetime.

Of course, not all was perfect, and we all endured some difficulty coping with language barriers, and with the heavy heat and humidity of the Japanese urban summer, some of us having a harder time than others in that last regard. But, in a way, even that experience was dear, as one of our delegates experienced just how gracious our Japanese hosts can be when having to provide care for a delegate in distress. But despite some obstacles, every delegate expressed to me at that end that it was a trip of lifetime." *Mayor Steve Lacy*



A Message from Mayor Frank Kuntz

"My trip to Misawa was amazing! We spent three nights in Tokyo and enjoyed the sights. Mayor Lacy knew the way around town and was a great leader. The welcome we received in Misawa was wonderful. We all were treated like royalty. Even the Royalty (Queen Emily and Princesses Madi and Maggie) were treated like Royalty. I enjoyed the Air Force Base, the parade, and the warm hospitality. I even got two rounds of golf in. Thanks to the Sister City Committee and my new friends in Misawa for all they did to make the trip a life long memory." *Mayor Frank Kuntz*

A message from Queen Emily Abbott



"This has been the most incredible trip", princesses Madi Still and Maggie Chvilicek both stated while we waited in the Seattle airport for our flight's boarding to be announced, "I am so thankful that I was able to come". I couldn't agree more. Visiting Japan this summer was my second time traveling with the Sister City Delegation to Misawa, however, my experience was no less rewarding the second time.

The trip began with a three-night stay in Tokyo. What I truly enjoyed about this time was that the group experienced everything together. It gave us time to get to know one another and bond. Tokyo was a beautiful city. The buildings were all tall, flashing lights and billboards lined the streets, and the people were all kind. Never once did I feel unsafe. On our last day in Tokyo we were bussed to a town called Nikko. This was my personal favorite part of the Tokyo stay. We shopped, went to a hot spring, and hiked to see exquisite Japanese tem-

ples.

Eager smiles and handshakes, flashing cameras, and a performance by a young group of children was how our delegation was welcomed when we stepped off the bus at the Misawa International Center.

This kindness and enthusiasm never dwindled as we were brought to Sabishiro Beach, the Misawa Air Base, a high school, dressed in kimonos, taught to play the koto and make sushi, and much, much more.

However, living with host families is what truly makes the visit to Misawa unique. Every delegate experiences their own sneak-peak at what a normal every-day Japanese house and life is like. On top of that, we all made life-long friends with the members of our host family. My family treated me, as did every host family to their delegate, with a level of kindness that can only be fully comprehended if one has experienced it on their own.

Living with my host family was my favorite part of the trip. It opened my eyes to the true meaning and importance of our sister city relationship with Misawa, Japan.

Miss Veedol landed in East Wenatchee in 1931. However, our city's bond with Misawa has not lasted 82 years only because of an airplane. The special relationship that our Wenatchee Valley has with Misawa exists because both cities truly care for one another. During the Apple Blossom Festival, my family had the enriching opportunity to host Masako, a Japanese delegate who will now always be my friend. Strong relationships occur and will continue to be formed between the members of our cities.

It is a beautiful thing to know I will always have a second home in my community's sister city: Misawa, Japan." *Queen Emily Abbott*

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Editor's Note by Jeril Hansen

Putting together this newsletter has brought back wonderful memories from my trip to Misawa in 2012.

It was, without a doubt, one of the best things I have ever done. The people! The hospitality! The sights! The tastes! The sounds! The trip was spectacular on every level. I would not change a thing.

That being said, it is not a trip to be made without being in good physical condition. The schedule is fast paced and full of adventure. There are miles of walking everyday. You tote your own luggage everywhere you go. The heat and humidity can be almost intolerable at times. BUT..... It was worth every

single minute. And, I think those who have made the journey would agree, too. And, I think everyone would say they are happy to have called themselves delegates for our Sister City Association.

If you, or your child, who is between 12 -17 years of age, have dreamed about traveling to Misawa, you can apply for the next delegation trip to Misawa right now. The WVMSCA is accepting applications for the August 2014 trip today. The airline reservations are available for an extremely reasonable rate of \$1290, non-stop from Seattle to Tokyo. An additional \$800 (approximately) is required for hotel/hostel stays, some

meals, train tickets, and tours. And you will need spending money for incidentals and shopping. You will be guided by a knowledgeable and experienced guide who will find unique experiences from a personal point of view. The trip will be 8 days of wonderful memories waiting to be made. What are you waiting for? Contact Teresa Allen at 886-4507 or go to our website at:

www.wenatcheevalleymisawa.org

to obtain application information.

Don't wait! Start planning now for the experience of a lifetime!

Misawa is calling you!



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Wenatchee Valley Misawa Sister City Association

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.



We're on the web:
www.wenatcheevalleymisawa.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2013

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Cashmere Valley Bank
Wenatchee Photo Booth
Food Service of America
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RiverWest Senior Living
Ballard Ambulance
Mel Henkel, CPA
Wenatchee Valley College
Our WVMSCA host families

