

www.spokanesistercities.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 25-27, 2010

Koi and Goldfish Show. Features Koi competition between domestic and Japanese koi breeders. Also educational seminars and exhibits. Plantes Ferry Park, 12000 block of E. Wellesley, Spokane. For more information call 928-9209.

**Sunday, June 27, 2010,
Time and place to be
announced.**

The Jilin Society's youth group will host dinner and a movie – *The Karate Kid*. Come eat Chinese food and see a movie in which China is the star! Plans to begin a pen-pal project with students in Jilin City are underway, so be prepared to write something about yourself and to start a correspondence with someone your age! For more information, contact SpokaneJilin@hotmail.com or check out Spokane Sister Cities events on Facebook.



Sister Cities Association President Chuck Rehberg looks on while Mayor Mary Verner and Limerick Mayor Kevin Kiely share a moment at the reception welcoming Mayor Kiely to Spokane (May 14, 2010).

A visit to remember

*By Chuck Rehberg
Sister Cities Association President*

Irish eyes were smiling brightly on the Lilac Festival Week visit of Limerick Mayor Kevin Kiely and Oliver O'Loughlin, Limerick's director of services.

Our area's capricious springtime weather cooperated and fond memories sprouted like dandelions (or four-leaf clover). Good planning and good luck (no volcanic ash flight delays) also helped.

Mayor Mary Verner's gracious reception in the Chase Gallery set just the right tone for the long weekend of activities. Thanks, Mayor. And thanks to all the City Council members, visiting city officials, Sister City board members, Limerick Society members and others who welcomed our visitors so warmly.

As we noted, Sister City programs are difficult to maintain without City Hall's consistent, strong support. We have been blessed with that in Spokane.

Mayor Kiely's heartfelt remarks made a great and lasting impression at the Lilac Festival dinner.

At a Saturday Limerick Board luncheon, enthusiasm flowed as high as water in the falls nearby for various initiatives, including a proposed Sister City Garden in Riverfront Park. Mayor Kiely, whose term ends in June, pledged

his and his successor's support for the garden.

Saturday night's weather – and huge turnout – could not have been better for the Lilac Festival Armed Forces Day Torchlight Parade.

Basking in the warm climate and equally warm reception as honorary grand marshal, the visiting mayor "was treated like a rock star," said Limerick President Kerry Lynch. Kerry and former Mayor Jack Geraghty joined the Limerick mayor in a vintage, stick-shift Chevy Impala. Driver Sheila Geraghty said she "only killed the engine once" during the long parade route.

With help from Mayor Kiely ("Sheila, I think you have to turn the key in the ignition..."), the honorees were quickly back on their way, parade-waving along the route to the tens of thousands of spectators who got a nice dose of Sister City awareness. "Ollie" joined the hearty band of Limerick members who walked behind the Limerick-Spokane banner.

Maybe even the momentary stalled vehicle is a metaphor for Sister City relations...expect a few challenging stops and starts, but work together and get things moving again.

After a Sunday morning excursion for the visiting mayor to a nearby lake and a hilltop winery, the weekend concluded

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813th Mayor of Limerick Visits Spokane

**Sunday, July 18, 2010,
1:00 p.m.**

Spokane Sister Cities membership potluck picnic. Gather at the large shelter east of the Bowl and Pitcher area, Riverside State Park, Spokane, for an afternoon of food and fellowship. For more information, contact sistercities@spokanecity.org or check out Spokane Sister Cities events on Facebook.

Saturday, July 24, 2010

Liberty Lake Italian Fest. Italian food and cooking. 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., 1421 N. Meadowwood Lane, Liberty Lake.

**Saturday, August 7,
2010**

Spokane Highland Games. Enjoy highland dancing, Celtic bands, heavy athletics, pipe bands, and more. \$3.00 - \$8.00. Spokane County Fair and Expo Center, 404 N. Havana. For more information, see SpokaneHighlandGames@yahoo.com.

Mayor Kevin Kiely, the 813th Mayor of Limerick City, Ireland, visited Spokane May 14 - 17 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Spokane-Limerick Sister City relationship and to ride as Honorary Grand Marshal in the Lilac Festival/Armed Forces Day Torchlight Parade. Accompanying Kiely was Limerick's Director of Services, Oliver O'Loughlin for his first visit to Spokane.

Spokane Mayor Mary Verner greeted the Limerick delegation at a special reception in City Hall. Mayor Verner presented Mayor Kiely with a key to the city and a beautiful Pendleton blanket. Mayor Kiely presented a plaque commemorating the

300 year-old Limerick Treaty Stone.

Mayor Kiely and O'Loughlin were guests of the Lilac Festival Association at the group's annual banquet that evening. Other activities included a tour of the Spokane City and County Emergency Operations Center, a visit to local wineries, and a festive barbecue celebration. The hectic visit concluded with the 20-year rededication of the Spokane-Limerick Monument.

Spokane-Limerick Sister City Society members are planning a 20th Anniversary celebration in Limerick in September 2010. Plans include a rededication of the Spokane Walk along the River Shannon.



Mayor Verner presents Limerick Mayor Kevin Kiely a gift of a Pendleton blanket at the May 14th welcoming reception.



Limerick Society president Kerry Lynch cuts the cake with Mayor Kiely.



Limerick Sister City Society president Kerry Lynch with Mayor Kevin Kiely (left) and Director of Services Oliver O'Loughlin at the Spokane-Limerick Monument near Shenanigan's along the Centennial Trail.

20th
Anniversary

Three Spokane Exchange Students Head for Nishinomiya



Spokane students prepare for their trip to Japan.

Three different Spokane high schools will be represented in our Japanese Sister City this summer while (l-r) Lei Silva, Kaytlynn Davis and Riley Mathis spend a six-week stint in Nishinomiya. The trio will leave Spokane June 22nd, returning in early August. Miss Silva attends Ferris, Kaytlynn is from North Central and Riley goes to Lewis and Clark.

The Spokane-Nishinomiya Sister City Society selects three outstanding high school students each year to send to our counterpart in Japan. The students stay with Japanese students who will be their guests in Spokane for a six-week visit beginning in October.

The student exchange program has been an important part of the two-city affiliation since it began in 1961. Plans are underway for a big 50th Anniversary Celebration next year when Japanese officials visit Spokane in May and Society members return the honor with a trip to Nishinomiya in September.

Jilin Sister City Society Starts Youth Group



Rosalynn Emberton greets other young people interested in all things China.

Saturday, June 5th, marked the kick off of the Jilin Sister City Society's youth group. A dozen young people gathered at Riverfront Park to share food and ideas about Chinese culture and exchange. Each attendee was asked to write 3 questions they might ask a young person in Jilin City, China. Questions included:

- What are schools like in Jilin? How long is your school day?
- What is your favorite food? What do you eat for lunch? Breakfast?

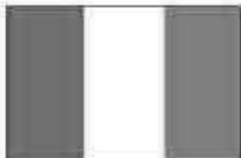
Questions were sent to a Jilin City middle school, with the hope that the children there would reciprocate with questions of their own. Jilin City's youth group will meet again June 27th for dinner and a movie - *The Karate Kid*. Contact SpokaneJilin@hotmail.com for more information.

Board Openings

The Sister Cities Association Board currently has three openings - 2 for adults and 1 to fill a newly created seat for a young person (under 18 years old). If you are interested in serving on the board, you can find the application at <http://www.spokanecity.org/government/bcc>. Go to the Councils section, and download the application.

Sister Cities Association of Spokane wins award!

Sister Cities Association of Spokane will receive the award for innovation in the area of arts and culture for cities of 100,000 to 500,000 at the 2010 Sister Cities International conference. The award will be presented for our photo project. Photos from the project can be viewed at www.spokanesistercities.org or on our Facebook page.



Spokane Sister Cities Association

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Promoting Citizen Diplomacy

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.spokanesistercities.org

Check us out on FACEBOOK!

Saturday, August 21, 2010.

Unity in the Community. Annual event showcasing the Northwest's diverse communities. Art, cultural village, food, education, and health. Spokane Riverfront Park. For more information, see www.nwunity.org.

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with a festive barbecue at the beautiful home of long-time Limerick members Joan and Don Jamison.

Gift exchanges and long good-byes laid the groundwork for a Spokane delegation's visit to Limerick in mid-September as the 20th anniversary celebration of the relationship continues. Sincere friendship remains the best gift for any anniversary.

We experienced that in Jecheon and Jilin last summer, and in Nishinomiya for Mukogawa University's 70th anniversary last November. And we

expect no less Aug. 4, the 20th anniversary of Spokane's Mukogawa campus and next year, when Spokane-Nishinomiya celebrates 50 years of partnership, and in 2012, the 25th anniversary of Spokane-Jilin.

Meanwhile, between the dinner parties and parades, we will continue to explore ways to work together to build sustainable neighborhoods and communities, to share our collective best practices, to establish economic partnerships and to expand educational exchanges, in cyberspace and in person.

After all, as the song lyric tells us: "That's what friends are for..."

Sister Cities Membership Potluck Picnic

Sunday, July 18, 2010 – 1pm

Large shelter east of Bowl & Pitcher, Riverside State Park

Join other members of Spokane's Sister Cities' Societies for a fun-filled afternoon of food and fellowship. Meet others with similar interests, and share your experiences. Bring a food item to share. Beverages provided by the Sister Cities Association. RSVP to sistercities@spokanecity.org or 509-280-3116.