

www.spokanesistercities.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun., January 22, 2012

Spokane Chinese Association celebrates the Year of the Dragon. Culture Fair, 1:00-3:30; Special Performance, 3:30-5:00. Performing Arts Center, Central Valley High School, 821 S. Sullivan Rd., Spokane Valley, followed by special New Year's Dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Hong Kong Buffet in Spokane Valley mall. Cultural fair free. Show only: \$10 for adults, \$6 for kids. Show and dinner: \$25 for adults, \$15 for kids. Children 3 and under free. For more information, see spokanechinese.org.

Wed., Jan. 25, 2012

Crafting Unity: Chinese Lanterns. Help create a cultural unity tree. 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m., main floor of Crosby Student Center, Gonzaga University. Free. For more information, contact Rudy at mondragon@gonzaga.edu.

Jan. 26-Feb. 4, 2012

SpIFF, Spokane's International Film Festival, brings features, documentaries, and shorts from around the world. Spokanefilmfestival.org for more information.

Wed., Feb. 1, 2012

The Archeological Institute of America & EWU's Dr. Jerry Galm present *Global Climate Change Research and the Archeological Record: A Review of the Last 10,000 Years in the Pacific Northwest and Central Asia*. Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture, 6:30 p.m. Free. For more info, call 509-456-3931.



Sister Cities Association President Margo Buckles in front of one of the signs recognizing Spokane's four sister cities – Nishinomiya, Japan, Jecheon, Republic of Korea, Jilin City, China, and Limerick, Ireland.

Here's to Endings and New Beginnings

*By Margo Buckles
Sister Cities Association President*

Generally, as the days grow shorter, we reflect on the events of the past year and look forward to the beginning of a new year – with new opportunities and challenges. The past year has been a busy one for the Sister Cities Association of Spokane and our four societies – Nishinomiya, Limerick, Jecheon and Jilin. We are looking forward to the changes, challenges and opportunities that 2012 will present us.

With the end of this year, we say goodbye to two long-term board members and former Association presidents – Jenifer Priest and Chuck Rehberg. Jenifer is responsible for my involvement in Sister Cities. In 2004, I saw an advertisement in *The Inlander* seeking volunteers to work on the 2005 Sister Cities International Conference. I called the number, and the rest is history. Following the conference, Jenifer became Association president, and, thanks to her energy, the Association has become a stronger and more active organization. Under her, we held several fundraising events and began our photo project, which ultimately won an award from Sister Cities International. The results of the project can still be seen in the entrance

to City Hall.

Chuck Rehberg followed Jenifer as Association president. During the 2005 conference, Chuck and the president of the Spokane-Nishinomiya Sister City Society, engaged visiting young people by making a rock walk reminiscent of the ones found in Korea. The walk is a series of concrete slabs decorated with rocks and various other objects, which protrude slightly from the top of the concrete. Pedestrians then remove their shoes and walk over the objects, massaging their feet in the process. After the walk was done, the question became what to do with it? Chuck dreamed of a Sister Cities garden in Riverfront Park - a place where Spokane's citizens could learn about Sister Cities. This past year, the Sister Cities Association signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Spokane's Parks Department, and we recently hired Land Expressions to help the Association go forward with Chuck's, and now our, dream. Fundraising for this project will be our challenge in the upcoming years – if you are interested in donating, we will soon have a donation button on our website, www.spokanesistercities.org.

Another board member to whom

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Fri., February 3, 2012

SpIFF, Spokane's International Film Festival and the Sister Cities Association of Spokane will screen *Parked*, starring Colm Meaney. Magic Lantern Theater @ 7pm. SpokaneFilmFestival.org for more information.

Sat., February 4, 2012

Celtic Music Spokane presents the Randal Bays Duo, with Irish fiddle player Bays and guitarist Davey Mathias. 7:30 p.m. Bing Crosby Theater. Contact ticketswest.com for information on tickets.

Wed., Feb. 22, 2012

Crafting Unity: African Artwork. Help create a cultural unity tree. 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m., main floor of Crosby Student Center, Gonzaga University. Free. For more info, contact Rudy at mondragon@gonzaga.edu.

Wed., March 7, 2012

The Curious Case of the Octagonal Gemstones: A Possible New Pagan and Early Christian Workshop in Turkey. Archeological Institute of America Lecture by Gonzaga's Dr. Andrew Goldman. 6:30 p.m., free. Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture. For more information call 456-3931.

Thurs., March 15, 2012

Annual Limerick Dinner, Knights of Columbus, 6pm. Dinner \$30. Proceeds benefit Sarbaugh Scholarship for a GU student to study in Ireland. www.spokane.limerick.com.

Fri., March 16, 2012

Annual Nishinomiya Society Dinner, JCC, 4000 W. Randolph Rd. Spokane, 6pm. www.spokane-nishinomiya-sistercity.society.org.

New International Club at Mead High School

By Nathan Ruff

Sister Cities Association Youth Member

Just this last month, Mead Sr. High School approved a new student club. This new addition, the International Club, is designed to promote appreciation and understanding of different cultures. In addition, it will serve as a support for students attending Mead who come from other countries and cultures. The International Club will be run in partnership with the Spokane Sister Cities Association. The partnership will include coordinating projects between Mead Sr. High School's International Club and a school in Nishinomiya, Japan. Nishinomiya, Japan has been sister cities with Spokane since 1961, one of the earliest Sister City relationships in the United States.

The International Club became a reality when one of the students at Mead noticed the need for an internationally based club for the student body. Mead accepts a good handful of international exchange students each year, and the student demographic boasts a good variety of ethnicities and cultural backgrounds. This student is also the current youth board member for the Spokane Sister Cities Association. He realized that with the help of the association, they could coordinate projects between his high school and a school in one of Spokane's sister cities. He even found the help of a world history teacher at Mead, Dana Rowan, who has agreed to be the club's advisor. Mead accepted the addition of this

new club with absolutely no opposition, but instead with total encouragement and excitement.

My name's Nathan Ruff and I am that student. As a junior in high school, I still understand the importance of international relations and figured I'd help raise awareness among the next generation, the generation that will soon be in charge of those international relations. I also hope that it raises awareness among other Spokane area high schools and inspires each high school to form their own international club. I know that the teens that attend this club will have fun learning about other cultures, and they'll better understand the importance of international relations like Spokane's Sister Cities.

For 2012, some suggested projects for the International Club at Mead include: video chatting with students from schools in Nishinomiya; attending international movies in Spokane; having meals at an international restaurant; participating in environmentally related projects and contests; and creating a media project involving Spokane and Nishinomiya. Mead's International Club will meet for the first time on January 10th.

A Summer Study Trip to Korea for K-12 Educators

The New-York-based Korea Society sponsors a summer study trip to Korea for K-12 educators. Each year, the program takes educators from the U.S. on a 16-day study tour of the Republic of Korea. Teachers who might be interested should apply by January 16. More information is available at <http://apply.koreasociety.org>.

Societies' 2011 Scholarship Recipients



Above, Ian Mulligan, was the 2011 recipient of the Limerick Society scholarship. Ian, a history major at Gonzaga University, studies history and spent time at Trinity College. In his application, Ian wrote, "I believe that Trinity College will offer me a different view of the world. History is a study of perspective, and by learning from another perspective one is able to fully understand an issue."



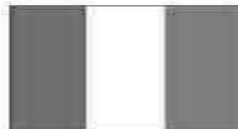
Amanda Ramey, one of this year's Jecheon Society scholarship recipients, visited Jecheon, Spokane's Korean sister city, on October 12 and 13. Amanda is a junior political science major at Whitworth University and studied at Korea University in Seoul. Amanda wrote, "I wanted to thank you again for the opportunity to visit Jecheon this weekend. I had a wonderful time. It was great to see a different city outside of Seoul. Jecheon was such a beautiful area! I appreciated all of the hospitality that I received this weekend. Everyone was so kind."



This year's crop of Nishinomiya-Spokane exchange students - from left: Kenta Shimada and Christian Baum-Shadle Park High school; Katie Miller and Fukataro Matsumoto--Mead High School; Kyndra Mote and Mizuki Sakakihara--Shadle Park High School. The Spokane students visited Nishinomiya in July, and the Nishinomiya students spent fall 2011 in Spokane. Check out their impressions at www.spokane-nishinomyiasistercitysociety.org



Matthew Winchell, a Lewis & Clark High School graduate, used his scholarship to study Korean language and to conduct research at the Korean Film Archive while attending Sogang University in Seoul this past summer. Matthew is a graduate student in Korean Studies at the University of Hawaii.



Spokane Sister Cities Association

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.spokanesistercities.org

Check us out on FACEBOOK!



Peace begins when people make the effort to learn about one another. Sister Cities fosters people-to-people exchanges. Special thanks to Hotstart, Inc. and Spokane Industries for their recent support of Spokane's Sister Cities programs.

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we say goodbye is Mits Nakamura, also a member of the Spokane-Nishinomiya Sister City Society. Mits was instrumental in raising the needed funds to host the 40 member delegation that came from Nishinomiya in May. Moreover, after the devastating Japan disaster in March, Mits spearheaded the fundraising effort that raised over \$31,000 for the Japanese Red Cross. He will be missed.

Happily, along with the goodbyes, there are hellos. We will be welcoming four new board members: Steve Corker, Michael Maehl, Roberta Wilburn and Ryan Kepler. We are very excited to welcome these new board members, and we hope that the new blood brings new ideas and new energy to our board.

So, to what do we have to look forward in the first quarter of 2012? In January, the Jecheon Society hopes to

present a South Korean film. Toward the end of January, the Spokane Chinese Association will celebrate the beginning of the Year of the Dragon – sponsored by the Spokane-Jilin Sister City Society. On February 3, the Association will sponsor an Irish film as part of SpIFF – *Parked* with Colm Meaney. You can catch it at the Magic Lantern. In March, both Limerick and Nishinomiya will have their annual dinners. Please check out our web sites – www.spokanesistercities.org, www.spokanelimerick.com, and www.spokane-nishinomyiasistercitysociety.org or check out Facebook to learn about our events. Please, if you would like to participate in one of our sister cities, contact the organization or email us at sistercities@spokanecity.org. Here's looking forward to seeing you at one of our events in 2012.