



# Anacortes Sister Cities Association NEWSLETTER

MARCH, 2005

## From the President

By Duane Clark

### Defining Moments.

Most of what we do in ASCA is just a continuation of the delightful, challenging, enlightening, frustrating, and rewarding things we've been developing for many months and years.

But, every now and then, something comes along that stands out, and just reminds us that there is more to be done—more hard work, more creative cooperation with others in the community, more awareness of our greater world community.

We continue pleasantly plugging along with our ongoing plans. Suzanne and the Lomonosov gang are working on plans to bring an adult group to Anacortes. Judy continues to encourage our growing, enthusiastic group in Sidney, B.C. Cora and Anne are organizing an adult trip to Kisakata in April, as well as the newest group of exchange students who will entertain Japanese students this summer and travel to Kisakata next year. Nikki is busy facilitating another student trip, while pre-paring for this year's CroatiaFest, and at the same time preparing for a new "Little Lovric" arriving in July.

The Golf Tournament Committee is busy at work preparing for what promises to be the most meaningful (remembering Doyle Geer) and productive tournament we've ever had.

But then, as I said, every now and then something unique happens. On a regular basis I hear from residents of Anacortes, from others in Skagit County, and from folks from far and near, about our new Flagpole Project. This special project has touched folks with thoughts of patriotism, thoughts of the larger world community, and thoughts of behaving and getting along with cultures widely different from each other. Just think of it, these five cultures (U.S.A., Russia, Japan, Canada, Croatia) represented by *the* five national flags, *have* over the centuries not always been so peaceful. They have all been involved in major international conflicts, at times with each other.

I like Dwight Eisenhower's approach much better. If Americans, Japanese, Russians, Canadians, and Croatians can eat at the same table, sleep in the same house, and celebrate their diverse cultures together, the likelihood of them warring against each other is very remote.

Sister Cities International is a great organization, Anacortes Sister Cities Association is a remarkable group of peace-seeking folks, our Flagpole Project says that loud and clear, and those who drive by and see our various flags blowing in the wind are touched by our message. Thanks to everyone who helped to bring this defining moment to Anacortes.

*Duane Clark*



## **From the Vice President**

By John Lovric

Hello everyone.

I just wanted to introduce myself. I'm John Lovric and I'm pleased to have been voted in as your new vice president. I think Don has done just a great job and I have quite a task on hand if I'm going to keep up with his work ethic.

I haven't too much to report since a lot of the projects were decided before my term and they are falling into place quite nicely. We have accomplished our flagpole project with just one more thing in the works, and that will be a sign. We need people to know what all those flags mean when they come to town. Don had this idea from the start and with his help it will be the finishing touch on the entrance into town. Hopefully some day we can have flags on the other end of town where people come off the ferry.

As far as upcoming events go, I've been busy working on the Doyle Geer golf tournament. If you didn't know, we changed the name of the tournament late last year to honor our devoted member and sister city pioneer. It is sad to have lost such an active and warm-hearted leader.

I think we will have an even better year than last year based on our projections. I hope to do the job well and I will keep you posted on upcoming activities. *John Lovric*

## **Lomonosov, Russia**

By Suzanne Harris

Our committee looks forward to a busy and exciting year! The committee held its first meeting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 24 at Cap Sante Court and made plans for a continued relationship with our first Sister City, Lomonosov. One of our first plans is to orchestrate the making of an Anacortes Sister City Cookbook. Things have begun splendidly. Anne McCool has volunteered to do the artwork. I have collected Russian recipes from Lomonosov and will begin work on having them translated. Cora has a contact in Kisakata who is working on collecting their recipes. Cora's mom has graciously agreed to translate them. David is having our Anacortes members send their recipes to Willy for safekeeping. Nikki and John will be collecting recipes from Vela Luke, and Judy Jewell from our friends in Sidney. Willy Evans stepped up with an actual sample cookbook and all the info. on what seems to be a very affordable company for us to potentially work with. Thank you, Willy. What seemed like a project of giant proportions just got smaller. Several local stores have agreed to sell the cookbooks for us. We will inform you of our progress as we learn more.

One of my personal hopes is that we will be able to accomplish bringing some of our Russian friends to Anacortes in September. I have been provided the names from Kalinka of those wishing to come who believe they will be able to pay for half of their fare. I will bring this list to our next meeting for review. This is a huge undertaking for us but important if we succeed. Our Russian friends have been exceptionally gracious to us during the three trips our community members have traveled to Lomonosov.

I urge each of you to make a concentrated and special effort to participate in our golf tournament this year. I am so excited by the success we will realize from this event this year. Let's "shoot for the moon" and make Doyle proud of us! *Suzanne Harris.*

## **Kisakata, Japan**

By Cora Amburn-Lijek

The plans for the adult trip to Kisakata in April are almost set. Plane reservations, hotel stopovers, and lodging with host families in Kisakata have all been arranged. The travelers will be meeting on Monday, March 28 at 7 p.m. at the Lijek's to decide about transportation to and from SeaTac Airport, to talk about gift ideas, and to practice a little Japanese.

The twelve adults will leave Anacortes on April 21, overnight near Narita International Airport in Tokyo on April 22, and fly to Akita, where they will be met by our friends from Kisakata on April 23. They will stay for five days. President Duane Clark and official ASCA photographer Marius Hibbard will return to Anacortes while Diane and Rick Davidson fly to Tokyo to visit old friends and old haunts. The rest of the group, Jo Fuqua, Delores and Rudy Gahler, Barbara Graham, Barbara Hathaway, John Lastar, Vera Oakes, and Jean Robeson, will fly to Kansei Airport in Osaka, and then take a bus or train to Kyoto where they will stay for four nights. Flying into Kansei should be an experience as I have heard it is built on a man-made island. The group will be in *Kyoto* during Golden Week, which is *a week of* holidays for the Japanese, their longest holiday during the year. The group will depart on May 2 on a bullet train, which will return them to Narita International Airport to catch their flight back home to Anacortes. I know they will all have a wonderful time, especially in Kisakata. We will be waiting to hear about their experiences when they return.

The twelve Anacortes Middle School students are continuing to meet weekly to study Japanese with Rob MacKay, one of the chaperones and an Oak Harbor High School Japanese teacher whose two children have participated in the exchange. The other chaperones are Vicky Greenfield, an Island View School teacher and the parent of two students who participated in this exchange; Vicky Austen, the AMS secretary; and Cora Lijek, whose daughter participated in the last exchange. The kids are learning lots of words, even ones Cora does not know - like eyelashes. Bob is also teaching them how to read, and write Japanese. They are doing a marvelous job. We have been talking about fund-raising, and one family will be kicking off the first fund-raiser by selling raffle tickets for a quilt made by Jenny Ives' mom, Kathy. The quilt will be on display at the Anacortes museum for the next two months where raffle tickets will be sold. The drawing will be in September so there will be lots of opportunities to support this exchange buy buying raffle tickets. I will have more information about the raffle in the near future. *Cora Amburn-Lijek*

## **Vela Luka, Croatia**

By Nikki Lovric

Hello once again.

Wow! What a wonderful "Winter" we have had here in Anacortes, from snow to sun. I know I have been enjoying all of it!

We have all sorts of exciting news in the Croatian community. For one, John and I will be welcoming a new baby to our family in July, 2005. We are very excited and can't wait to raise a hard-working member of Sister Cities and the Croatian Community. However, I will not be taking time off from much. For those of you who know me well, you know that I cannot stop! I am just go. go, go!

As for our dance ensemble, VelaLuka, we will be performing (including me) at the St. Mary's Catholic Church on April 2. This is Vela Luke's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The group started in November, 1975, and continues to be a driving force in the Croatian community, preserving our culture for future generations. We will also be performing at the Folklife Festival the weekend of May 28<sup>th</sup>. Please visit [www.velaluka.org](http://www.velaluka.org) for more information on upcoming performances.

CroatiaFest is well on its way for another successful year at the Seattle Center. We are in the planning stages of the festival and will be working hard for Sunday, October 2. The ASCA will again be a participant at the festival. I am on the lookout for volunteers to sit at our booth. Please contact me if you would like to help. Please visit [www.croatiafest.org](http://www.croatiafest.org) for updates.

The sword dancing group, Kumpanija, is still in the works. If not this year, we will definitely have them here in October, 2006. I just received many promotional materials from the director, Sreten Zuvela. The materials will be recreated and mass produced.

We are working out the details of our student exchange program. I am currently working on a curriculum for a cultural class the students will participate in. We hope to propose an idea to the school district in the near future. I should have more information sometime soon.

If you have any questions regarding the Vela Luka sister city program, please contact me at [lovric@comcast.net](mailto:lovric@comcast.net) or 293-8530. *Nikki Lovric*

## **Town Criers**

Judy Jewell and Andy Hansen traveled to San Diego where they visited Ms. Power's first grade class at Jackson Elementary School and handed out pins and postcards to the children. They received thank-you notes from all of the children.

**Japanese Ceramics and Sumie Painting Exhibit** featuring paintings by Janet Laurel and ceramics by Reid Ozake will be displayed at the Depot through April 24. Opening of the exhibit will be from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, April 1 in conjunction with the Anacortes Art Walk.

## ***In Memoriam*** **DOYLE GEER**

As most of you know, former Mayor Doyle Geer and a mainstay of the Anacortes Sister Cities Association for many years, passed away on December 30 after a prolonged illness.

Doyle was responsible for establishing the relationship with Lomonosov as our first Sister City, and as Mayor was named the official representative for the first visit there which departed on September 30, 1992.

Later, Doyle and Mayor Kon of Kisakata started the youth exchange program between the two cities that has continued until the present. Doyle was a strong supporter of the Anacortes Youth Sports Coalition which raised funds for sports activities.

Doyle's final trip was to Kisakata with Scott Gorman last year. As a tribute to Doyle, the Sister Cities Association's annual golf tournament has been named in his honor.

Doyle is survived by his wife Peggy, his children and grandchildren. The family suggests that memorials be sent to the Anacortes Sister Cities Association, P.O. Box 1464, Anacortes, WA 98221.

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