



# Anacortes Sister Cities Association NEWSLETTER

September 25, 2004

## From the President

*By Duane Clark*

### Head Spinning Activity...

I continue to be amazed at the variety and complexity of the things we do. And, of course, the only way these things can happen is because of the commitment and creativity of our Board, our Committee Chairs, and their committees.

We've entertained folks from Kisakata, we've sent students and their chaperones to Kisakata, we've supported a special Doyle and Scott delegation to Kisakata, we've entertained students from Vela Luka, we will be sending two groups to Vela Luka, we will be entertaining two delegates from Lomonosov, we have hosted Town Crier folks, we've supported sending our Town Crier to various parts of the world, and we have invited Sidney folks to join us on September 16. We've also hosted a golf tournament, held fun fund raisers, and developed a flagpole project. In the process, we've set up a tax deductible non-profit entity.

That's not everything, but that is enough to make my head spin — I'm getting dizzy just thinking about it. What's more, that's just for 2004.

Wait 'til you see what's coming in 2005. Since many of the plans for 2005 are still being developed, I'll keep you in suspense for a few weeks. But I will say this—in 2005 we will continue the tradition of "Head Spinning Activity." We are going to have fun, and we are going to continue all of our efforts toward making our community and our world a friendlier, more tolerant and enjoyable place to live.

## OCTOBER MEETING

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7**

**7 p.m., Anacortes Library**

**Program:**

**Report on Kisakata Exchange**

**Report on Officer Candidates for  
2005-2006**

For information on pre-meeting dinner, call  
Sue Harbaugh at 293-6688

## From the Vice President

*By Don Lapworth*

### How I see it...

### September Travel to Croatia...

We had a second meeting of the travel group that will go to Vela Luka for two weeks beginning September 19. All seems to be in order—airline tickets were distributed along with return checks for deposit portions not used. Also, each traveler was given a travel plan including airline times and dates, ferry schedules, hotel reservations in Split and Dubrovnik, and details of homestay arrangements made by Sister Cities Chairman Ivan Mirosevic for the ten days we are in Vela Luka.

So, after nearly nine months of preparations, our group of 18 (less Marius Hibbard whose September Gallery appointments, we regret, have caused him to cancel) is ready and anxious to board our chartered bus for SeaTac on the morning of the 19th. We return on October 6. Tony Gutierrez has agreed to be our official photographer for the trip. We'll plan on using Tony's pictures for a power point program during our November membership meeting.

### Joint ASCA-Kiwanis Flag Pole Project

Lots has happened! The Washington Department of Transportation and the City of Anacortes approved our building permit, and Strandberg Construction completed the earthen work. The City Department of Public Works installed the six pole sleeves and the perimeter concrete forms so the electrician could install two 175 watt metal halogen lamps at the base of the American flag pole to brightly light that flag and the ASCA logo sign that is planned at the base, facing the road.

On Thursday, August 12, the Public Works folks poured 4-1/2 yards of concrete around the base of the six flag pole bases, and the Chamber of Commerce repaired lights at the base of the "Welcome to Anacortes" sign. If you are coming into the city, stop at Roadside Park and see the progress!!

The remaining major concern is the location and delivery of the six 25-foot poles that have been on order by the Noon Kiwanis Club for several months. We are working with Kiwanis to follow

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## Vice President's Message *(Continued)*

up on their shipping location and with Public Works who will provide the installation with their lift truck. All of the country flags and most of the Sister City flags are on hand for display once the poles are installed.

It's been a long road and we still aren't there yet, but think of the visual impact of five national flags and the Washington State flag flying in a line immediately behind and above the "Welcome to Anacortes" sign at the entrance to our city. I think it will happen in the next few months now that we have the rest of the project in place.

## Officers' Election for 2005 and 2006...

President Duane Clark has asked me to Chair the Officer Candidate Committee whose job it is under our By Laws to present a slate of officer candidates for consideration by the membership at the October general membership meeting.

Anyone interested in being considered for one of the five positions: President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, and Treasurer for the two year term is asked to please contact me at 293-2439 or <DRL7@comcast.net> as soon as possible.

*Don Lapworth*

## Kisakata

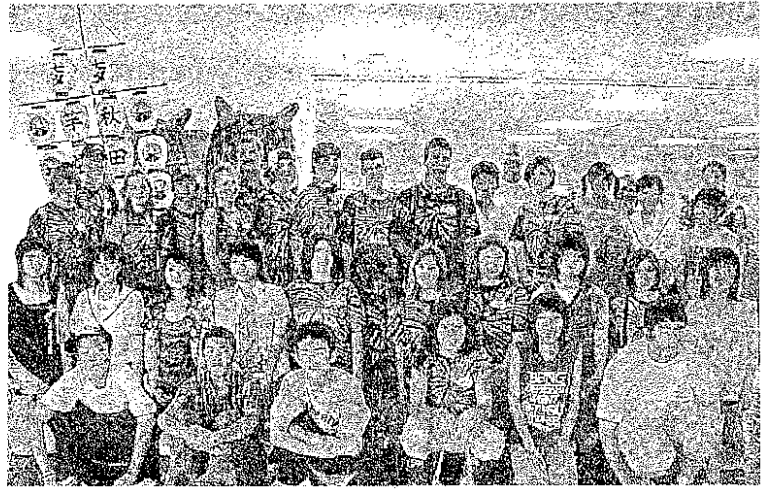
*(By Cora Amburn-Lijek)*

The Kisakata exchange students and their families and the chaperones who participated in the exchange worked very hard over the past two years. They held fund raisers and attended Japanese culture and language classes, and their hard work paid off. Except for the first exchange, which was paid for by a grant, this group is the first to have raised enough money to cover the students' entire plane fares and most of the plane fares for the chaperones.

On July 28, 16 students and five chaperones gathered at the middle school along with family members, who came to say farewell. Photos were taken, hugs and kisses exchanged, and bags were loaded on a yellow school bus for the first leg of the journey — the International Airport in Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

After a 9-hour flight, the group arrived in Narita, where they stayed overnight. To keep the kids busy and awake, the chaperones and students went swimming in the hotel pool. The next day they traveled by bus to Haneda Airport to catch a flight to Akita, where they were met by their host families and members of the association.

*(Continued in next column.)*



As soon as they arrived in Kisakata, they went to a welcome party, where they were warmly received. Exhausted from their trip, they gladly went home with their host families after the party. While in Kisakata, the students and chaperones visited a temple, museum, aquarium, city hall, and the middle school, where they performed a line dance; played ground golf; went to a barbecue; and stenciled canvas bags. The chaperones met with Mayor Yokoyama and other city officials, bringing greetings from Mayor Dean Maxwell and ASCA President Duane Clark.

The students and chaperones spent the rest of their ten-day visit with their host families. At the farewell party on July 8, the students and their host families each spoke about the exchange. The next day, the students and chaperones departed for Haneda Airport, where they were greeted by the Lijeks and Amburns, who were there to pick up Krys. They took the bus to Narita Airport where Rob MacKay met them and picked up his son, Ian. Then the remaining students and chaperones flew back to Vancouver, where they were met by a few parents on a yellow school bus.

The students who participated were: Evelyn (Evey) Compton, Caitlin Dolan, Dana Dutton, Cy Fenton, Lauren Gong, Mich Hetterley, Paige Lewis, Krystyna Lijek, Ian MacKay, Andrew McDermott, Lilli Natto, Evan Purcer, Vince Roney, Emma Sadzewica, Graham Thompson, and Spencer Wilhelm. The chaperones were Lori and Robert Clumpner, Bruce and Teresa Lewis, and Tracy Schlegel.

Thanks to everyone who supported the student and chaperone fund-raisers and made donations to the exchange: the Anacortes School District; the Fidalgo Island Youth Education Foundation, Yuki Mattson for teaching the classes; Marilyn Malesic for teaching the students a line

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## Kisakata (Continued)

dance; the chaperones and parents for their hard work; and the students for all their efforts!

A program about the exchange will be given at the ASCA October meeting.

### Also from Cora...

As many of you know, Doyle Geer, former ASCA President and Kisakata Chair, was diagnosed with a serious illness this past year. He wanted to again visit Kisakata, which has had a major impact on him, perhaps for the final time.

Scott Gorman, an ASCA member who is active on the Kisakata Committee and lived in Kisakata for six months while on a Fulbright scholarship as a senior researcher, agreed to accompany Doyle as his travel companion and guide, providing transportation, courtesy roles, and other assistance.

Thanks to an anonymous donation of \$2,000, a private donation of \$700, \$400 in donations from ASCA members, \$1,000 from ASCA, and payment of the train transportation in Japan and the hotel in Kisakata by the City of Kisakata, Doyle and Scott were able to make the journey. They left on July 19 for Tokyo, stayed one night there, then the next day took the bullet train bound for Akita.

They were warmly received there and were driven to Kisakata, where they met with recently retired Mayor Iwao Kon and the newly elected mayor, Tadanaga Yokoyama, bringing greetings and congratulations from Mayor Dean Maxwell and ASCA President Duane Clark. Much to Doyle's surprise and delight, the new mayor was an old friend. Mayor Yokoyama had been Mayor Kon's aide, and was with Mayor Kon when he first visited Anacortes.

During the week, Doyle and Scott went out into the Sea of Japan, had a round of golf in the shadow of Mt. Chokai, were given a private show by the famed Takio drummers, and much more.

On the serious side, Doyle and Scott vowed once again to continue and even expand Kisakata/Anacortes exchanges. Mayor Yokoyama pledged to be a strong advocate of the exchanges, and Doyle and Scott responded in kind. It was a great moment that will draw the two cities even closer. Doyle and Scott also presented two Anacortes flags from the City of Anacortes to the City of Kisakata.

After a week of joy and affirmation, Doyle and Scott returned to Tokyo, where they rested for awhile, and went to a Japanese major league baseball game. A great time was had by both. They then returned to Anacortes on July 28. Doyle and Scott made a presentation about their trip at the September 16 ASCA meeting.

## Vela Luka

*By Nikki Louvic*

Hello all from Sunny Croatia!! Well, not just yet; first I had to write my column for the Vela Luka portion of this newsletter. Then on Friday, September 10, Johnny and I will be basking in the sun, drinking Turkish coffee, and beach bummin' for 19 days in Croatia! We will spend our first seven in Vela Luka. Then off to our timeshare in Brac, back to Vela Luka, and then Komiza. Whooo Hooo!!!

A lot has happened since the last newsletter. Our students from Vela Luka, Ivana Sipic, Danko Lovricevic, and Ante Zuvela, came and went back home. They give many greeting to all of those who supported them before and during their stay. They were able to meet and live with several different families. Thank you to the host families, Vito and Marica Ruzic, Vicki and Jon Primozech, Frank and Dena Barcott, Bret and Denise Lunsford, and Maria and Nick Petrish, for showing them the Croatian-American way of life. I hope you enjoyed them as much as they enjoyed living with you.

During their stay they were treated by ASCA members to dinner at Cap Sante Court and an ice cream social with the residents. Jo Fuqua took them to see the miniature trains, Bill Mitchell's murals, and the had ice cream at the Desert Show. Cora Lijek took them to an ice skating rink (they had never been ice skating before). They left with so many wonderful memories of Anacortes, and returned to Vela Luka to make a report on local radio stations, their classes, and the townspeople. Thank you to all who participated in their trip!

I would like to remind you that the CroatiaFest is on Sunday, October 10 at the Seattle Center House. From 12 to 5 p.m. there will be performers of all ages, vendors with jewelry, Balkan foods, fun stuff to buy, and historical booths (one of which will be staffed by ASCA). Internationally renowned artist Ante Sardelic will have artwork for you to view or purchase, and there will be movies on Croatia, a fashion show of Croatian costumes, and to top the night off, several different Croatian bands will play Croatian folk music for dancing. Call Nikki at 293-8530 to reserve your place on the bus. Price is \$5 per person. **For more information, please view: [www.CroatiaFest.org](http://www.CroatiaFest.org)**

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