

The Lethbridge Twinning Society celebrated their annual New Year "Pot Luck" reception on January 27th. We had an excellent turn out of over 70 people along with a very interesting program that included special guests from the Mayan region of Mexico. (Five ladies who are on a one month program at the University of Lethbridge) It was an honour to have greetings extended to our Society by our MP Rachael Harder and by Lethbridge City Councillor (Deputy Mayor), Joe Mauro. We also reached out to Makoto Sakurada in our Sister City, Towada City, Japan and we chatted with him via "Skype".

It is always exciting to have our Executive members joined together and create a fun filled, family event on behalf of our Society.

As we had our Mexican guests, we extended a special invitation to friend of our Society, Hector Castaneda and his family. Hector is from Columbia and as such fluent in Spanish. Hector started our dinner off by giving thanks to the Lord for the meal (grace) in English and as well in Spanish! Thank you Hector. Hector and his family also assisted us in presenting gifts to the Mayan students.

We wish to thank Jenny Bourne from the University of Lethbridge for her attendance and for encouraging the Mayan students to share their talents in song and dance with us on this special evening.



LTS President, Harold Pereverseff welcome everyone to the "pot luck" reception.



LTS Member, Marisa Boles prepares to lead us in the singing of our national anthem.



LTS Member, Tom Wickersham presents a greeting from our MP Rachael Harder.

Greeting of Member of Parliament, Rachael Harder – as presented by Tom Wickersham

Good evening everyone. Please accept my sincere apologies for not being able to join you in person. I always look forward to this event but unfortunately this year I am unable to attend.

As a Member of Parliament, I understand the importance of building and maintaining positive government-to-government relationships with other countries.

But perhaps even more important are the grass-roots, international connections fostered by citizen-driven groups like the Lethbridge Twinning Society. I am grateful to be able to send greetings to you this evening, in support and encouragement of the great work you are doing.

By meaningfully connecting with our sister-cities in the USA, Russia, and Japan your organization continues to promote cultural preservation, mutual understanding and international friendship both within our city and around the world. Thank you for all that you do.

I wish you all an enjoyable evening as you visit together and put Alberta hospitality on full display for the students from Consejo Quintanarroense de Ciencia y Tecnologia in Mexico. I extend a warm welcome to them.

As all of you gather this evening, may you enjoy great food, good company and many laughs!

Rachael Harder MP



LTS Member, Glen Sigglekow presents a greeting from Councillor (Deputy Mayor) Joe Mauro

Greetings of Deputy Mayor, Joe Mauro – as presented by Glen Sigglekow

Wishing members and friends of the Lethbridge Twinning Society a Happy New Year as you start your events for this year off with your Annual Pot Luck Reception.

Best of everything as you continue to promote, peace, goodwill and understanding towards our Sister Cities of Timashevsk, Russia; Culver City, California; Towada City, Japan and Great Falls, Montana.

Due to being out of the City, I am unfortunately unable to join you this evening.

Councillor Joe Mauro



Marisa and Helena lead us in the singing of "This Land is Your Land, This Land is My Land".



Pastor George presents a toast to the Queen



With over 70 people in attendance, our annual "pot luck" New Year celebration was a huge success.



Jenny from the University of Lethbridge introduces the five Myan ladies who are at the UofL for a one month program.



The five lovely ladies from the Myan district of Mexico performed a number of their cultural dances for us, very much appreciated and most enjoyable, THANK YOU!



The Five Myan ladies were "quick on their feet" as they selected partners from the audience to dance with them. This was a highlight of the evening for sure!



Five beautiful and talented ladies from the Mayan region of Mexico presented a tradition song to us.



We were able to “Skype” with Makoto Sakurada in Towada City, Japan (One of our “Sister Cities”). The Mayan ladies interacted with Makoto and later enjoyed Makoto’s video, “Pray for Japan”.



[Makoto Sakurada](#) joins us via "Skype" and presents a personal greeting from our "Sister City" Towada City, Japan.



Ako (Left) and Keira (Right) begin to announce “Door Prize” winners.



Titus picks out another lucky door prize winner.



LTS Member Joseph Palate selects his door prize.



Martin did not go home empty handed, he too won a door prize.



Abe conducts some "serious" auctioneering that brought some money in for LTS



The bidding was fast and furious!



Garry and Mark help count up the cash from donations.



LTS Director for Culver City relations, Michael Bennett (left) and LTS President, Harold Pereverseff (right) display a blanket depicting “Sister City” Culver City, California, that is offered up for auction. (LTS members Rolanda and Simon took it home)