

junior high and elementary school students. In addition, he has done a video student exchange with teacher Lynne Kwarcinski of Alcott Elementary School and a letter exchange with the fifth grade students of teacher Nancy Dillon of Thoreau Elementary School.

In April, the Concord-Carlisle High School Sci Fi Club toured Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island. The trip began in Nanae where they were welcomed by Nanae Mayor Nakamiya and hundreds of Nanae citizens. The following days were filled with home stays and cultural activities. From Nanae they went to Sapporo where they visited Hokkaido's State Assembly and met with Nanae's representative, Mr. Tomihara. All of the students had home stays, visited two schools, and took part in a number of cross-cultural experiences. After Sapporo, they briefly toured Tokyo, Kyoto, and Nara.

The highlight of the year was the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the sister city relationship in early October. Nanae sent a delegation of twenty-five people that included Mayor Nakamiya, five members of the Nanae Town Assembly, citizens and town workers, and eight junior high and high school students. Concord's Board of Selectmen welcomed the Nanae delegation to the Fifteenth Anniversary Celebration at the Concord Town House. Special events were held at CCHS, Orchard House, the Concord Museum, and the Concord Art Association. The entire delegation did home stays.

Part of the ceremony at the Town House was the installation of CCHS and Boston University graduate Nick Ferbert as the next CIR in Nanae. He returned to Nanae with the delegation and has since served with the distinction of his predecessors.

Nanae Town, whose delegations have long enjoyed their visits to the Orchard House, invited Executive Director Jan Turnquist to visit Nanae in November as one of its anniversary gifts to the town. With staff member Kiko Mills as interpreter, Ms. Turnquist brought Louisa May Alcott and "Little Women" to the people of Nanae and several of their elementary schools.

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thomas McKean, Chair
Frank Okurowski, Clerk
Al Couvillon
Mara Dolan

In 2012, the Cable Advisory Committee had two primary focuses: to become informed regarding the relicensing process by working with the Board of Selectmen, Town Management, and legal counsel retained by the Town to negotiate a new contract and to obtain a working understanding of CCTV, the local Public Access channel(s) and the primary beneficiary of the funds received by the Town as a result of the Cable contract.

As such, the Committee visited the site of CCTV at the High School and had presentations by Lindsay Alaimo, the Executive Director of CCTV, to review their budget and anticipated needs when the High School renovations are completed and CCTV moves to a new location within the new high school. The Committee has also been provided with anticipated future Community needs and interest for additional services and a staffing plan and for capital equipment and facilities plan. CCTV provided a list of accomplishments of the current services they provide. Their operating budget and capital/facilities budget was presented and reviewed. The information provided by CCTV and their cooperation is much appreciated.

The Committee also met on two occasions with counsel hired by the Town to negotiate a new contract with a cable provider. Attorney William Solomon explained the process of contract renewal and the parameters of The Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 which confines the issues that are involved in the relicensing process. Although the current contract does not expire until April of 2014, it was felt that there could be advantages in seeking a new agreement sooner. Deputy Town Manager, Doug Meagher and Board of Selectmen liaison Stanley Black have been helpful in directing the Committee in their work. Unfortunately, due to personnel changes at Comcast, the current cable operator, there has been a delay in negotiations. The Committee anticipates getting input from Town citizens and making a recommendation during this year in the hope of arriving at a beneficial contract for the Town.