

Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

April 2011

2010-2011

OFFICERS

President
Richard Buckler
291-8175
rbuckler3@comcast.net

1st V. President
Robert Montoya
352-6453
robdolmon7@msn.com

2nd V. President
Carol Dawley
883-9516
crdawley@juno.com

3rd V. President
Dave Bagley
771-3114
dave3114@gmail.com

Secretary
Mary Hope Buckler
291-8175
maryhope@comcast.net

Treasurer
Carl Londene
877-1491
celondene1@msn.com

Newsletter Editor
Carol Dawley
883-9516
crdawley@juno.com



ASCF Celebrates Nowruz

On Saturday, March 19, 2011, ASCF held a special luncheon commemorating Nowruz, the Persian New Year. Nowruz is celebrated in countries that were territories of, or influenced by the Persian Empire: Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Iraqi Kurdistan, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kashmir, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan. Also the Canadian parliament added Nowruz to their national holiday calendar on March 30, 2009.

The luncheon was held at the Manzano Mesa Multi-generational Center. About 60 ASCF members and guests were in attendance. The event began with the releasing of the "birds of peace" (white doves) by Dr. Hakim Zamir. This was followed by a savory meal of typical Turkmenistan foods - a rice dish, salad, bread and sweet pudding for dessert. Attendees enjoyed viewing

pictures from previous visits to Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, ASCF's sister city. Many items from Turkmenistan were on display including hand woven rugs, a musical instrument, clothes and purses. Ashgabat committee members were dressed in typical Turkmen outfits - beautifully embroidered dresses for the women and long robes and full head pieces for the men.

At the event there was a presentation of Turkmen books (donated by the Turkmen National Library) to CNM, UNM and Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Libraries. Representing CNM were CNM Administrative Director of Libraries and Education Resources, Ben Wakashje and Olivia Baca, Reference Librarian. Steve Harris, Director of Collections Development and Jeff Dickey, Earth and Planetary Science Subject Specialist accepted the books on behalf of UNM. And from Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Libraries was Library Director, Dean P. Smith. Thank you Alana McGrattan and Oguljan Young for making the arrangements for this presentation.

Chema Young with Turkmenistan items.

More photos page 6

ASCF Reaches Out

All of us in Albuquerque Sister Cities (ASCF) are grieved at the enormous loss to the Japanese people from the recent earthquake, tsunami and the ongoing nuclear issues. Many members have expressed this grief in emails and phone calls, wondering what ASCF can do. And, several of you have asked whether our sister city, Sasebo, Japan was affected by the immediate disaster.

Good news! According to ASCF Sasebo chair, Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman, Sasebo Mayor Tomonaga's office reports that Sasebo has had very little damage from the earthquake, but much appreciates our concern and that which was recently expressed by Mayor Berry's Office.

In addition, ASCF is reaching out to Japan monetarily. At the March board meeting, ASCF board decided to donate \$500 to NMJACL (New Mexico Japanese American Citizens League). NMJACL with the national JACL is joining with Direct Relief International in efforts to support relief and recovery in Japan. 100% of monies donated will go to Japan's Relief and Recovery Fund.

Continued page 3

From the President's Desk

March 11, 2011. A day of tragedy for Japan but felt by the entire Sister Cities organization. Over 182 cities in Japan are twinned with respective cities in the USA. Our own sister city, Sasebo is thankfully located on the far south-west region of Japan in the Nagasaki Prefecture. Sendai, Japan was not so fortunate, and we mourn for the victims and also express our condolences for Riverside, California who lost many friends in Sendai. Riverside and Sendai have been sister cities for the past 54 years.

Many of you have expressed your personal grief for our Japanese friends. The need will continue for many months and even years. Thus, your board voted to take the next few months to collect any donations you might send marked "Relief," and pass these donations on to our local chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League at our Annual Meeting. See article page 1 for details on how you can contribute.

What, in the first place, created such a strong relationship over the past five decades between Riverside and Sendai, which subsequently has resulted

in equally strong support in Sendai's hour of need? Riverside gives credit to many different kinds of exchanges between the two cities, which have included the museum, citizen, youth and government sectors. If there is a bright spot in the terrible tragedy it is that the Sister Cities model and the vision that President Eisenhower had for the world to be joined together one city at a time, works.

Here in Albuquerque, we continue to pursue such relationships with our nine sister cities as well as listen to City Hall and our community about what further relationships should be considered. Put on your calendar the September 10 Asian Cultural Celebration (see details on page 4). The city will be a co-sponsor with us and together we will highlight in music and dance our sister cities of Ashgabat, Hualien, Lanzhou and Sasebo.

We are also continuing to meet regularly with the Office of African American Affairs, Dr. Harold Bailey, Executive Director, as we consider the possibility of linking Albuquerque to the African continent. Africa has been getting a lot of attention lately within Sister Cities Inter-

national primarily because of a \$7.5 million grant awarded to SCI from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which is helping to relieve poverty, sanitation and water problems in 25 cities throughout the continent. To get a feel for the challenges and opportunities, at the recent Sister Cities International conference (March 3-5) in Arlington, VA, I had the opportunity to meet with delegations from Morocco to South Africa, from Kenya to Ghana. I also met with Shirley Riven-Smith, co-founder and President of the US Africa Sister Cities Foundation, Inc. (www.usac.org) Shirley has agreed to work with us to identify cities in Africa that might be interested in taking the first steps of city-to-city friendship.

Other wonderful events that show how we here in Albuquerque seek to carry-out the city-to-city, people-to-people vision are reported elsewhere in this newsletter; such as our recap of Mayor Berry's trip to Israel at the subsequent town hall meeting. Meanwhile, we celebrated the Persian New Year thanks to our wonderful Ashgabat committee. Interested in how to be a Sister Cities advocate? Register to attend the April 29-30 state-wide Sister Cities conference hosted by our local organization. We also expect delegations from Mexico, Germany, China and Turkmenistan this year and we will co-sponsor with the Albuquerque Council for International Visitors Citizen Diplomacy Day during Balloon Fiesta. Few organizations get the advantage of working with different cultures and organizations, but that is what Sister Cities is all about. Thank you for being a part.

Richard

Richard Buckler

Eva Gonzales, Chair of Albur- querque, Spain

Eva Gonzales is the new Chair of Albuquerque, Spain Committee. She replaces her brother, Ramon Gonzales.

As a native New Mexican, she grew up in Albuquerque. After attending classes at UNM, she

decided she wanted to see the world and enlisted in the US Air Force. She spent the next four years in Texas!

Upon her discharge from the Air Force, she traveled to San Francisco where she lived for the next 40 years, marrying and raising her two daughters. While there, she volunteered with the Girl Scouts and the League of Women Voters.

In 2007, she retired from her position as a customer service

manager in financial services and moved back to Albuquerque.

Besides being involved with ASCF, she volunteers at the National Hispanic Cultural Center as a docent and in the Foundation Office. She loves to travel, having been to Mexico, Spain, Italy, Greece, Ireland and Russia, with a trip to Guatemala planned this April.

She is excited about promoting the sister cities program and interacting with Albuquerque, Spain.

2010-2011 Chairs

Albuquerque, Spain
Eva Gonzales
296 - 2572
evagonzalesc@gmail.com

Ashgabat,
Turkmenistan
Oguljan Young
803-0247
atamuradovna@yahoo.com

Chihuahua, Mexico
Alma Solis
417-0525
almasolis5@hotmail.com

Guadalajara, Mexico
Vacant

Helmstedt, Germany
Nathan Young
977-6033
nathaneyoung@gmail.com

Hualien, Taiwan
Yu-Lin Shen
797-2648
shenyl@unm.edu

Lanzhou, China
David Hsi
345-3866
davidnkathyhsi@aol.com

Rehovot, Israel
Vacant

Sasebo, Japan
Kazumi Kawakubo
994-4692
kazumikawakubo@gmail.com

Youth Coordinators

David Buckler
270-8191
bucklerd@comcast.net

Gina Solis
315-5586
georgina.solis@gmail.com

Reflections on a Visit to Israel, with Mayor Richard Berry

Written by Dave Bagley

To enhance economic and cultural exchange between Israel and New Mexico, Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry, along with his wife Maria and son Jacob, visited Israel February 18-24, 2011. During this visit, Mayor Berry participated in the Eilat-Eilat renewable Energy Conference, met with municipal authorities and business and technology leaders, visited Albuquerque's newest sister city of Rehovot as well as Jewish and Christian sites in Jerusalem.

The Mayor discussed his trip, his impressions of Israel and the culture of the Israeli people at a March 24 Town Hall meeting. He also mentioned possible future technological exchanges between Israel and Albuquerque as a result of his meetings, and he gave his personal reflections of

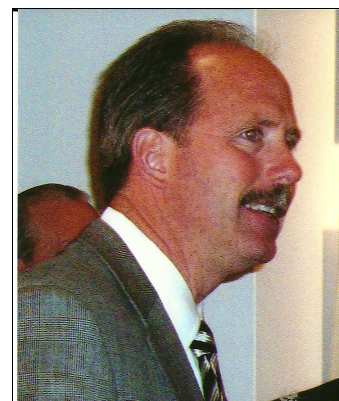
his visit, which was organized and funded by a consortium of individuals from New Mexico's Jewish and Christian communities.

The Mayor and his family were on the move from the moment their plane landed in Tel Aviv. Their days started early and kept going until midnight! While the mayor attended the Renewable Energy Conference, his wife and 8th grade son visited a local school. Jacob quickly discovered that students in Israel were, except for the language, very much like his friends in Albuquerque. Mayor Berry learned about Israel's development of desalination facilities, photovoltaic production and solar energy. On related topics, he spoke about the implementation of an electric "smart grid."

While visiting Rehovot, Mayor Berry met with Mayor Rachamin Maloul. He also toured the famed Weizmann Institute of Science, meeting with several of its directors and dis-

cussing the possible ties with Sandia National Laboratory. . They also talked about technology transfer, which seems to function much too slowly in both Israel and the U.S.

After his 40 minute presentation at the Ronald Gardenswartz Jewish Community Center of Greater Albuquerque, the mayor answered a variety of questions from the full-house audience of 240 for another 30 minutes.



Mayor Richard Berry

Cont. Aid to Japan

ASCF board recognizes that the relief effort in Japan will be a long and ongoing process. Thus, we want to combine the \$500 with any donation members might wish to make. Over the next few months up until our annual meeting on June 5, 2011, ASCF will set aside any donations sent to ASCF that are ear-marked for RELIEF. There will also be a final opportunity at our annual meeting to make a donation through ASCF. Upon request, a tax deductible receipt will be given for

any and all such donations.

More information about assistance to Japan can be found at ASCF's website, www.albuquerque-sister-cities.org and clicking on the home page link "Reaching Out to Japan" which takes you to the website of New Mexico's Honorary Consul General of Japan - Davis Begay. Mr. Begay and his wife Ikuko have been long-time members of ASCF.

THANK YOU

ASCF wishes to thank Ramon Gonzales for his work as chair of Albuquerque, Spain committee. We welcome Eva Gonzales, Ramon's sister as the new chair. Ramon will serve as her co-chair.

Hong Kong Commissioner for Economic and Trade Affairs speaks at a Luncheon

Written by David Hsi

On March 30, 2011, David Hsi, Chair of Lanzhou Committee and Jian Zhu, the co-chair represented ASCF at a luncheon at the Hotel Parq Central hosted by the Albuquerque Economic Development Department. There were some 30 attendees, representing private business and public organizations who have interests in the economic and trade affairs in Hong Kong. Director John Garcia introduced the speaker, Mr. Donald Tong, Hong Kong Commissioner for Economic and Trade Affairs, USA. Mr. Tong is located in the Washington, D.C. main office. Two other Hong Kong Economic offices are situated in New York City and San Francisco. Director Jeff Leung and Deputy Director Wendy Au of the San Francisco office were also present as they are responsible for New Mexico business contacts. Other dig-

nitaries, Lt. Governor John Sanchez representing Governor Martinez and Albuquerque Mayor Berry made brief welcoming remarks before Mr. Tong's talk. His power point presentation included an overview of the vitality of Hong Kong's robust economy, business opportunities and the target industries of Hong Kong. According to Mr. Tong, their favorable political and economic environment offered great potential for foreign direct investment. He also mentioned the similarities in priority industries between Hong Kong and New Mexico such as innovation and technology, clean environmental industries, and creative and cultural businesses. These similarities and other common interests in tourism and professional services will lead to further collaboration in economic development between Hong Kong and Albuquerque and between Hong Kong and New Mexico.

SISTER CITIES STATE CONFERENCE

Friday, April 29, 2011

6:00 - 7:30 PM

Reception

Richard & Mary Hope Buckler's home -
10100 Isla Place NE

Saturday, April 30, 2011

9:00 - 1:00 PM

Meeting and Lunch with speaker

Sandia Labs Federal Credit Union - 3707
Juan Tabo NE

Keynote Speaker: Bernardo Rubenstein, an orchestra conductor, will talk about his travels to Cuba.

Cost: \$10.00 RSVP by April 22

Make check payable to NM Sister Cities & send to: 3349 La Avenida de San Marcos - Santa Fe, NM 87507

??? Call Carol Lopez at 505-690-4114

Those wishing home stays call Dave Bagley at 771-3114. Closest hotels are near I-40 and Eubank: Econo Lodge, Days Inn, Quality Inn.

SEPTEMBER CONCERT

Saturday, September 10, 2011

2:00 - 4:30 pm

South Broadway Cultural Center
1025 Broadway SE

Admission is FREE - call ahead for tickets

September Concerts are produced by Sister Cities volunteers around the world who believe in the power of music to bring people together to reaffirm our hope for peace, to celebrate life and our own universal humanity. They are held annually on or around September 11th.

For more information go to:
www.Septemberconcert.org

Albuquerque's concert will feature our Asian sister cities. Tatiana Ventrinskaya (native of Turkmenistan) from the New Mexico School of Music will play the piano. Representing Taiwan, Chaco Lin will have a voice solo accompanied by Pei Pei Chu. They will be followed by Chinese folk dances performed by the Chinese Christian Church and a Pipa soloist from UNM Chinese Student Association. Concluding our Chinese feature will be a Ribbon Dance performed by Lin's Chinese Cultural Center. Following an intermission with refreshments there will be Japanese music: a Shamisen soloist and Taiko drummers.

SCI International Conference March 3 - 5, 2011 Washington, D.C.

Written by David Hsi

Early March 3, Richard Buckler and I boarded a bus for Capitol Hill. Here we received Advocacy training. We were told that it was critical for congressional delegates to hear from their constituents before making budget decisions about public diplomatic efforts such as Sister Cities. we then went for our appointment at Senator Tom Udall's office. We met with his Legislative Assistant, Matthew Padilla and presented advocacy information and materials to give to the Senator. Next stop was the House of Representative Office Building and Congressman Martin Heinrich's office. Here we met with Heinrich's Senior Legislative Assistant, Tony Samp and gave him some advocacy materials for the Congressman. We did have the opportunity to briefly meet with Congressman Heinrich, who came into his office at a break from a Congressional meeting. Last stop for the day was the U.S. State Department where we received some more briefings by U.S. State Dept. officials.

The opening plenary session on March 4 was led by Carbondale, IL Mayor Brad Cole, Chairman of Sister Cities International board. Because of the sizable grant received by SCI from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, considerable program emphasis was placed on urban relief in Africa. Out of 20 countries represented, over one third came from Africa, nearly one third from Asia and the rest from Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Israel, Russian Federation but none from EU countries.

I am glad to report that I heard many favorable comments about the SCI conference held in Albuquerque last year.

ASCF to Join Public Library Summer Reading Program

ASCF will be working with Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Libraries this summer. The themes for this year's summer reading program are related to international culture and travel - a good fit with our organization's mission.

We are being asked to provide some of the prizes for the program participants.

Look for our logo on their summer program promotions.

keep in touch - Chinese

保持連絡

Have you changed your email or mailing address or phone number recently?? Please take a minute and send us your latest contact information.

email - membership@albuquerque-sister-cities.org
postal mail - ASCF Membership -P.O. Box 26533 -

Albuquerque, NM 87125-6533

Dave Bagle's phone - (505) 771-3114

July 2011 Sasebo, Japan Youth Trip Postponed

Due to the recent earthquake, tsunami and ongoing nuclear issues in Japan, it was decided to have the youth trip to Sasebo moved to 2012.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fri. & Sat. April 29 & 30, 2011 - New Mexico Sister Cities State Conference - see page 4

Thursday, May 19, 2011 - ASCF Board Meeting - Sandia Labs Federal Credit Union - 3707 Juan Tabo NE - 5:45 pm - All welcome

June 3 - 11, 2011 - Delegation coming here from Turkmenistan with Open World Program.

Sunday, June 5, 2011 - ASCF Annual Meeting - 12:30 pm - Evergreen Buffet - see insert

July 8 - 18, 2011 - ASCF youth trip to Helmstedt, Germany

Sat. September 10, 2011 - September Concert - South Broadway Cultural Center - 2 pm - see page 4

Sept. 30 - Oct. 1, 2011 - Sister Cities Regional Conference - Riverside, California. If interested in attending, contact Richard Buckler 259-7392 - see page 7

October 24 - 31, 2011 - ASCF trip to Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. For more information, contact Ashgabat Chair Oguljan Young at 803-0247

July 2012 - ASCF youth trip to Sasebo, Japan

Friendship Force of NM Honors David & Kathy Hsi

The Friendship Force of New Mexico presented the Del Valdez Lifetime Membership Award to David and Kathy Hsi. This is an award made to FFNM members who have made an outstanding contribution in furthering the goals and objectives of Friendship Force. David Hsi has been a member of FFNM for 23 years and was president from 2001-2002. He hosted the SW Regional Conference during his term. Also, he led and translated for 38 ambassadors on an exchange to China.

David is a past president of ASCF and current Chair of Lanzhou, China committee.



FFNM President Larry Litchfield presents Award to David and Kathy Hsi.



Book Presentation at Nowruz luncheon.
L. to R: Alana McGrattan, Steve Harris, Olivia Baca, Dean Smith and Oguljan Young



Releasing of "Birds of Peace" by Hakim Zamir

SCI Honorary Board Member, Elena Lu Goes to China

written by Elena Lu

As an SCI Honorary Board member from Albuquerque, I was asked to represent SCI at the 2010 China International Friendship Cities Conference in Shanghai, China. The theme was "City Cooperation Leads to a Better Life" and was held from September 8 - 12 by the China International Friendship-Cities Association (CIFCA) & Shanghai Municipal Government. The conference included a total of 372 representative from local government organizations and friendship-city organizations from 47 different countries and 145 local government officials from across 32 provinces.

Attending the opening ceremony and giving keynote speeches at the panel discussions were Shanghai Mayor Han Zheng and other VIP's from local governments. Foreign guests included former US President Jimmy Carter, former French Prime Minister Alain Marie Juppe and former Togolese Prime Minister Edem Kodjo. In their speeches, Carter and Juppe spoke highly of the efforts made by the CIFCA for promoting international friendship-city ties and enhancing friendship among the people of the world. Carter said countries all across the world currently face difficulties and challenges such as climate change, shortage of resources, urban poverty, cultural friction, war, disease, etc. The solution to these issues needs to include contributions from countries around the world, transcending national boundaries. Closely linked, they make greater joint efforts and strengthen cooperation so that together, they realize peace and sustainable development of the world. The friendship cities conference provided a good platform for these exchanges. After the conference, Jimmy Carter met with the 10 US delegates in his hotel suite.

PAYPAL is Coming!

ASCF has made arrangements with Paypal so that you can pay your membership online. Expect to see the link on the membership page of ASCF website www.albuquerque-sister-cities.org within the next few weeks. Special thanks to ASCF member, Andrew Jaffe for programming the Paypal interface.

SCI Fall Regional Conference - Riverside, CA

Fri. Sept 30 7 PM -9:30 PM

Sat. Oct. 1 7 AM - 9:00 PM

Purpose: To bring together individuals and organizations to discuss citizen diplomacy. Youth groups are being encouraged to participate.

More information is available on SCI website (www.sister-cities.org/regionalconference/)

ASCF is tentatively planning on sending youth as well as ASCF adult members to the conference.

Albuquerque Sister Cities
P.O. Box 26533
Albuquerque, NM
87125-6533

In This Issue...

Celebrating "Nowruz" Turkmen style - ASCF sends aid to Japan - Mayor visits Rehovot, Israel

**PO Box 26533
Albuquerque, NM 87125-6533
www.Albuquerque-Sister-Cities.org**



THE ALBUQUERQUE
sister
cities
FOUNDATION, Inc.

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult - Single/Family | \$20/\$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65 or older) – Single/Family | \$10/\$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (13-20) | \$7.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (21-35) | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small Business (15 or fewer employees) | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large Business (more than 15 employees) | \$300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reciprocal non-profit organization | N/C |

Membership Application

☐ New ☐ Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

WEBSITE: WWW.ALBUQUERQUE-SISTER-CITIES.ORG

Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2011 12:30 pm

Evergreen Buffet - 11001 Menaul Blvd. NE

Entertainment - Chinese dancers

Cost: \$5.00 ASCF Members Deadline for reservations: Wed. June 1, 2011
\$10.00 Non Members

Board Member Election

Nominating Committee recommends:

President and 1st Vice President are elected for 2 year terms and were elected last year.

2nd Vice President - Carol Dawley

3rd Vice President - Dave Bagley

Secretary - Mary Hope Buckler

Treasurer - Carl Londene

RSVP to: Albuquerque Sister Cities
PO Box 26533
Albuquerque, NM 87125-6533

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip Code: _____

E-mail: _____ Telephone _____

Number attending: Member _____ Non-Member _____

Amount enclosed (checks payable to ASCF): _____