

Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

Summer 2007

2007-2008

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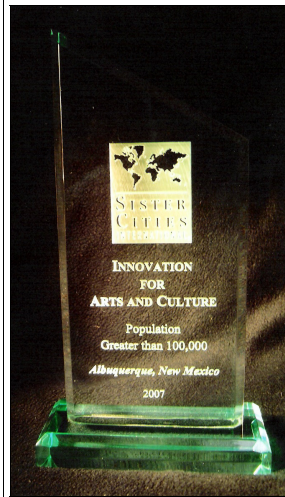
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Albuquerque Sister Cities Wins Innovation Award

Albuquerque Sister Cities received the Innovation for Arts and Culture Award for a city of a population greater than 100,000 at the annual ASCI International Conference July 2007. Over 750 applicants were received for the awards. Albuquerque's application focused on the involvement of its sister cities in the 300th celebration. See our Summer 2006 newsletter for details on this event.



ASCF Holds Annual Meeting in June

On June 24, 2007 the Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation held its annual meeting. Members and friends gathered at Temple Albert for the festivities. At 1 pm the potluck lunch started things off. After enjoying the many different dishes, President Dave Bagley welcomed the group. Seven students and two teachers who had traveled to Sasebo, Japan for a Youth Cultural Exchange gave a presentation. A teacher and a student from Albuquerque Academy that went to Guadalajara, Mexico for a Youth Cultural Exchange spoke next. Wolfram Krank, Chair of the Nominating Committee presented the slate of ASCF officers for 2007-2008. Being no nominations from the floor, the slate was unanimously accepted. Dave introduced Ruth Hashimoto, founder of Albuquerque Sister Cities; Marina Oborotova, President of International Club; Carol Lopez, the SCI New Mexico State Coordinator. Entertainment was provided by the New Mexico branch of Miyagi Rya Noshō Kai School of Dance. All enjoyed the pleasant afternoon of friendly camaraderie.



Accepting the Award from SCI Board President, Mae Ferguson is Betty-Mae Hartman, Alma Solis, Dave Bagley and Richard Buckler.



ASCF Attendees at SCI Conference - Dave Bagley, Alma Solis, Richard Buckler, Betty-Mae Hartman

From the President's Desk

At our June 24th annual meeting, **Richard Buckler** became 1st Vice President, **Nathan Young** took over as 3rd Vice President, **Carol Dawley** (our intrepid newsletter editor) is our Secretary, and **Oguljan Young** (who was recently sworn in as a new citizen of the USA) is the chair for Ashgabat. I welcome them on our board.

During the past year, many of our members have worked long and hard to promote Sister Cities. I want to thank them for their efforts. I feel fortunate to work with this dedicated group, who are called on to plan, home-stays, entertain and enjoy the unique cultures of our eight sister cities.

At the recent Sister Cities International Conference, we were proud to be awarded the **2007 Innovation Award** for cities over 100,000. The award was given for our Tricentennial celebration with our sister cities and our 240 guests during July 4th week, 2006. There were 750 applications for these awards, and we came out on top of our category. We could not have put together this wonderful week without the planning, guidance and support of **Davis and Ikuko Begay, Kay Carri-co, and Randy LeCocq**. Also, our wonderful chairs **Richard Buckler, Ramon Gonzales, David Hsi, Kazumi Kawakubo, Julia Stone, Sidney Yen and Alma Solis** made sure that our guests were well cared for from the time they arrived until they boarded the planes to go home. **Carol Dawley** photographed and reported every event, and produced the special 14-page insert for our newsletter. This insert documented our award application.

Thanks to you all for your efforts to show our guests what our culture is all about.

Also at the Sister Cities International Conference, the **Ruth Hashimoto Award** was presented for the first time. Ruth Hashimoto organized the Albuquerque Sister Cities Committee in 1965 and received Sister Cities International President's Award in 2003. She has dedicated her life to volunteerism and promoting peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation - one individual, one community at a time.

The city requested that **David Hsi** accompany them on a recent trip to Lanzhou and several other cities in China. **David Hsi and Jian Zhu** willingly volunteered to provide their excellent support for city staff during their meetings and negotiations.

The second student exchange to Sasebo sent 14 young people from various schools to learn about Japanese culture. **Kazumi Kawakubo, Pam Feather and Denise Mullen** planned the trip, provided guidance for our students, and accompanied them to Sasebo. Because of their efforts, these 14 young people enjoyed a unique cultural experience and made new friends that will last a lifetime.

We need your **email address!** There have been several occasions recently when we wanted to notify our members of an upcoming event, but didn't have time to print and mail postcards. When this happens, we'll send out a quick email notice. Please ensure that Membership Chair **Nathan Young** has your current email address. His email is: nathaneyoung@gmail.com We'll continue to send information through the post office

about our activities whenever possible. Want more copies of this newsletter? www.albuquerque-sister-cities.org/Newsletters.htm

Dave Bagley



2007-2008 ASCF Board: Carol Dawley, Nathan Young, Tuty Quinton, Richard Buckler, Maja Whittington, and Dave Bagley

Meet Your Board: Alma Solis

Alma Solis is the Chair of the Chihuahua Committee. She became involved with the Albuquerque Sister Cities when 6 years ago, the then Chair asked her to be his replacement. At that time there was a low-key relationship between Chihuahua and Albuquerque. Alma immediately set to work in making the partnering flourish. She involved the Mayor of Chihuahua and organized several trips to Copper Canyon. A hot air balloon festival was held for the first time in Chihuahua in 2005 and since then it has become an annual event. Coats have been gathered here in Albuquerque and distributed to the children of Chihuahua. There have been sports and musical exchanges between the two cities as well. In fact, in August 2007, Alma is taking a baseball team and a soccer team from here to Mexico to play some games against teams there.

Born and raised in Chihuahua, Alma lived there until 1970 when she and her husband moved to California. Her husband was trans-

Oguljan is a USA Citizen

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Meet Your Board Continued

ferred to Seattle, Washington for 2 years. He was then transferred to Alaska. Alma and the children were moved to Marysville, Washington for 2 years and then on to Anchorage, Alaska. Here they resided for 18 years, raising their 5 children - 4 boys and 1 girl. All graduated from college - the youngest just graduated last May. In February 1993 Alma and family moved here to Albuquerque. And also here are their children. One works in the mayor's office. Another just was hired as an assistant director for a movie being made here in New Mexico. Alma also has 4 grandchildren - 3 girls and 1 boy.

As a private consultant, Alma arranges for groups

On June 15, 2007 Oguljan Young officially became a citizen of the USA. 485 people became new citizens at the swearing-in ceremony. 65 countries were represented; but Oguljan was the only one from Turkmenistan. That evening Richard and Mary Hope Buckler hosted a party in her honor. Several members of ASCF were present at the celebration. Richard presented Oguljan with a pen & pencil set as a group gift from ASCF. Oguljan was festively dressed in a sparkling red, white and blue tiara.



Oguljan & Nathan Young celebrate.



Past Chairs of Ashgabat Committee, Richard Buckler and Sally-Alice Thompson congratulate Oguljan Young, present Chair.

Turkmenistan Embroidery Artist Visits Albuquerque

Leyli Khaidova, owner of the gallery "Ensi" in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan was chosen to be one of the artists at the International Folk Art Market in Santa Fe. She was selected for her embroidery work. The ASCF Ashgabat Committee held an Open House for Leyli on July 16, 2007 in Albuquerque to exhibit her work. During the Open House, she told of her joy of sharing the proceeds from the sales with 110 women back in Ashgabat and surrounding villages.

Albuquerque Sister Cities logo golf/polo shirts for sale:
\$8.50 - medium blue sizes S, M, L, & XL
Call Betty-Mae Hartman at 334-7083

to go to Mexico. These trips are mostly business oriented. Alma uses every opportunity to help others. She is always on the "lookout" for school supplies, books, etc. to take to the children of Chihuahua. About 4 years ago she helped to found Special Olympic Games in Chihuahua. Since then Albuquerque and Chihuahua annually exchange teams for competition.



Alma Solis

Albuquerque Youth Travel to Sasebo, Japan - May 2007

May 26 - June 3, 2007 14 Albuquerque youth and 3 adult chaperones traveled to Sasebo, Japan for a Youth Cultural Exchange. The youth were: Caleb Scales and Michelle Lawson from Hope Christian School; Elizabeth Hubbard from Amy Biehl Charter School; Tracey Buckler from Evangel Christian School; Jessica Carlton, Melissa Bacigalupa, Katie Kilbane, Isaiah Nix, Alyssa Gonzales, and Charlotte Blair from James Monroe Middle School; Tylinn Rshan from Desert Ridge Middle School; Dayna Tyler, homeschooled; Nick Dupuy from La Cueva High School; and Lexi Hartman, homeschooled. The 3 chaperones were Kazumi Kawakubo, Denise Mullen, and Pam Feather.

Sasebo Itinerary

Sat. May 26 - The group arrives in Sasebo and meets their home-stay families.

5/27 - The students enjoy various outings with their host families. 2005 Sasebo Student reunion where the students from Sasebo who came to Albuquerque in 2005 and the Albuquerque students who hosted them have a "cooking reunion."

Each group has various types of "Japanese Curry."

5/28 - Tour of Sasebo Heavy Industries Co. where the students are able to see how big cargo and oil tanker ships are built. Lunch at Ishidake Zoological and Botanical gardens where the students feed treats to the monkeys.

5/29 - Visit to Seiwa Girls High School where the students learn how to don and wear kimonos, how to prepare and have a tea ceremony, and to make IKEBANA floral arrangements. They meet with Mayor Tomonaga and enjoy a Welcome Reception sponsored by the mayor.

5/30 - Sea kayaking around the 99 islands; boating to one island for a picnic lunch. They visit a fish farm located in an open area of the sea. In the afternoon, they visit Pearl Sea Aquarium and Dome Theater. At night there is a barbeque at hanaichi restaurant sponsored by the Sasebo-Albuquerque Sister City Association.

5/31 - A visit to Mikawachi Pottery where each makes a plate or cup. Lunch at the International Cafe.

6/1 Travel to Tokyo via bullet

train and spend 2 days sightseeing there.
6/3 - Return home.



Sasebo Municipal Office - Youth delegation meets with Mayor Tomonaga.



Atago Junior High School - Elizabeth is learning how to make words in kanji.

Sasebo Memories

Melissa: "I got a wonderful impression of the beautiful city of Sasebo. The roads were clean and well-kept, and one can feel safe there. Everyone I met was very kind to me, and eager to make sure I felt comfortable. The food was delicious and very exotic. Sasebo has to be one of the nicest cities in the world."

Charlotte: "...Japanese food was quite different from American food. Instead of eating a lot of fattening foods, they eat healthy

foods. Most Japanese people like to fill you up with food until you can't possibly eat another bite."

Tracy: "The thing that stuck in my mind the most was my host family. Since I am the youngest in my real family, it was nice to have a little brother. Even at the age of four, he was so nice and respectful. That really impressed me. It demonstrated to me how the Japanese people are trained to honor and respect others, even at an early age. My host parents were really kind as well. They made a great effort to make me

feel at home. They never stopped trying to communicate with me, even when we hit a few road blocks. And they were always willing to accommodate my needs. It made me realize how important hospitality is to them and to the Japanese in general."

Nick: "The schools in Japan are also very structured, with uniforms and everything. However the students are very happy and kind. The students seemed to have an interest in American music and people as well."

Alyssa: "We also attended a Japanese BBQ. The BBQ was different because we had to BBQ our own food. I have never BBQ before. For my first time, I did a good job."

Sasebo Memories Cont.

Jessica: "My first day in Japan I went to my host brother and sister's sports day. It was the weekend and all the kids got together to do dance and sports events for school. Usually if kids have a choice to do something at my school, they opt out. It's amazing how they take so much pride in their school.... They also seemed like they appreciated their school because they cleaned it and there was no evidence of any damage to school property."

Lexi: "My most memorable experiences I had while in Sasebo are probably the trip to the girls high school and the trip to the junior high school.... When we went to Seiwa Girls High School, I learned how to put on a kimono and even got to experience a Japanese tea ceremony. Also someone taught us how to arrange flowers. We all ate lunch with the girls and they were fascinated by us; they stared at me while I ate. A lot of people wanted to take pictures with us. I felt like a movie star."

Elizabeth: "Some other memorable experiences from Sasebo were the simple but fun ones. Like going firefly watching with my homestay or to the night view area. Going to the BBQ with everyone with the breathless view of the islands and laughing and talking to other siblings in other families that I didn't know. I pushed myself from my comfort zone here in Japan, to try new things, talk to new people, and really try to seize all of the opportunities and experiences that I could. I will remember this experience and all of the wonderful memories for the rest of my life. I will definitely go back."

Katie: "The most memorable part of the trip was visiting the schools.... It was so interesting to see how different school life is in two different countries. I liked how the teachers moved from class to class and how all of the kids were so happy to see us. Even though they didn't know us, they were so welcoming."

Michelle: Mayor Tomonaga was a very sweet man. Even

though he could not speak English very well, he greeted us in English to make us feel more at home. He was greatly respected. His presence, it seemed commanded attention. He also gave us Sasebo tops and came around to greet each of us. It made me feel very honored that a man of his status was welcoming me, personally into his city."

Isaiah: "My (host) family was the best. They treated me very well. We had fun together.... A lot of things that my Japanese family did at home were different than American families. It was also new for me to take off my shoes every time that I came in the house, but their floors were never dirty."

Tylinn: "Sasebo is a great place to visit. Everyone is nice and welcoming. There are so many different things to see. It is gorgeous and green. There is a lot of water there so it is very different from Albuquerque. I know that one day I will come back to Japan and Sasebo."

Caleb: "There were so many memorable experiences to be had while in Sasebo. I only wish that there was more time to be spent there. I appreciate everything that my host family did for me, from providing food and shelter, to trying to teach me how to eat with hashi."

Dayna: "My most memorable moment was my visit to a Shinto shrine where I got to get my fortune told and see a couple in traditional clothing getting their wedding photos taken. If given the opportunity, I would most definitely go to Sasebo again."



Seiwa Girls Junior/Senior High School - Everyone learned how to make IKEBANA arrangements

Seiwa Girls Junior/Senior High School - Everyone learned how to put on and wear a Kimono.



BBQ at Hanaichi Restaurant - The youth delegation learned how to BBQ Japanese style.



ASCF Members Attend SCI Conference

Dave Bagley, Richard Buckler, Betty-Mae Hartman and Alma Solis attended the annual SCI International Conference in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida in July, 2007. The following are excerpts from their reports.

Dave Bagley: The 2007 SCI Conference was the smoothest conference I've attended. Most of the accolades go to the Fort Lauderdale SC organization. They did a superb job! Registration was easy and well-organized.... In the "Public Relations Boot Camp," we actually learned how to work with our underpaid, overworked local media people! ...The networking box lunch was good. We used the opportunity to have a state get-together.... Friday morning candidates session went well, BUT...I hadn't receive my quarterly SCI newsletter until after I returned home, so had no bios to work with.... The awards Ceremony went very well. I appreciated the briefing for each award. Of course, we were very pleased to walk away with the Innovation Award....Saturday morning's business meeting was run better than ever....We finally got to hear from our new Executive Director, Patrick Madden. Then there

was the gala. Whoever planned it should receive an award. Great job!

Richard Buckler: The SCI board moved into its next 50 years with greater international representation - a representative from Mexico was elected this year as well as a second person from Ireland. African Sister Cities Meeting - Representatives from Africa spoke about the success and challenges they faced. The most important theme was trade, not social exchanges. Islamic Initiative Meeting - Some points made were to understand Muslim history, focus on moderate countries, tap into the educated women of a Muslim country, collaborate with the US State Dept where needed, and don't forget to maintain strong social programs. Such programs can beget better trade, but not visa versa.

Betty-Mae Hartman: Reception was best ever. Meetings were well programmed. Opening Plenary Session informative though no connection with Sister Cities....Awards luncheon excellent.... Business meeting was well planned and Executive Director's speech was excellent.

.... Friday's lack of scheduled workshops made for an empty afternoon....Focus on Africa workshop - panel speaker, Mr. Makta gave a concise, clear picture of the problems in Africa, and the perception problem of most Caucasians.

Alma Solis: Being at the SCI 2007 Conference was a rewarding experience. I attended the following workshops: Strengthening Your Sister City Partnerships; Culture, Tourism & Economic Development; Cross Cultural Adaptability Skills; and Focus on Latin America. Overall these workshops helped to reinforce what we already practice as a sister city chair, a very important position as the main liaison of both cities, both countries.



Alma Solis (on right) with friends from Chihuahua she met at the SCI Conference.

Ruth Hashimoto Award

In March 2007, The Sister Cities International Honorary Board created an annual award in honor of Satoye "Ruth" Yamada Hashimoto. This award honors Ruth for her many years of dedication and service to SCI and a lifelong dedication to volunteerism. The recipients at the July 2007 SCI Conference were Ann Galloway and Dorothy Zammit.



Dave Bagley and Ruth Hashimoto at the Annual ASCF meeting in June 2007.

AKI MATSURI - Japanese Fall Festival

Sunday September 30, 2007 10 am - 6 pm

\$3.00 Admission - Fundraising for Proposed Japanese Cultural Center

Location: National Hispanic Cultural Center - 1701 4th St. SW (Intersection of 4th Street SW & Avenida Cesar Chavez/ Bridge Blvd.)

Japanese Dancing — Taiko Drumming - Martial Arts - Tea Ceremony - Origami - Kimono Demonstration - Food - ASCF booth

UPCOMING
EVENTS

AUG. 26 -
SEPT. 3
ASCF trip to
Chihuahua,
Mexico

SEPT. 19
ASCF Board
Meeting -
Compass Bank
- 505 Mar-
quette NW -
14th floor -
5:15

SEPT. 30
Japanese Fall
Festival - Na-
tional Hispanic
Cultural Cen-
ter - 10 am - 6
pm

OCT. 19 -
NOV. 1
ASCF trips to
Helmstedt,
Germany and
Ashgabat,
Turkmenistan

Mayor Chavez Visits Lanzhou

David Hsi accompanied Mayor Martin Chavez and a trade delegation to Lanzhou, China from July 12-15, 2007. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Albuquerque's mayor and Mayor Zhang of Lanzhou. The agreement calls for student and youth exchanges, commercial and business exchanges and tourism exchanges. Mayor Chavez will designate one week in May 2008 as Asian Week and invite Mayor Zhang and other business leaders from Lanzhou, Beijing and Shanghai to either visit at that time or during the October Balloon Fiesta. Co-Chair Jian Zhu was helpful in arrang-

ing meetings between Albuquerque city officials and influential Chinese business people in Beijing and Shanghai. He also did the interpretation for Mayor Chavez at various official functions. The Lanzhou government provided each attendee with a DVD containing the welcome at the Lanzhou airport, Mayor Zhang's reception, the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding and the presentation made by Albuquerque's Economic Development Director, Peter Mitchell during the business discussions.

ASCF Helps at the Intel
International Science and

Albuquerque hosted the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair May 11-18, 2007. This was a premiere national and international pre-college science competition showcasing student finalists from around the world who competed with their research. Representatives from international corporations, business executives, government and military agencies gathered to award more than \$4 million in scholarships, tuition, and grants to the next generation of innovators. The event drew over 5,000 international visitors, including students from 47 different countries. ASCF provided volunteers for the event. Among those that helped were David Hsi, Dave Bagley, Alma Solis, and Sidney Yen.

Japanese Dancers at Annual Meeting

Nostalgic dance expressing
pleasant thoughts of home.

Women's dance express-
ing the joy of love



Dance celebrating longevity



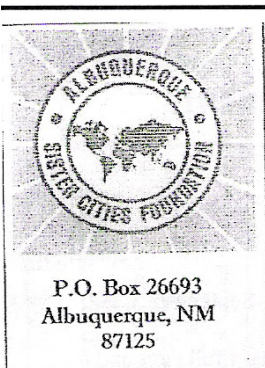
Dance describes life in a fishing
village - men who catch fish &
girls who bring them to the mar-

WANTED
YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

Send to Nathan Young at
nathanyoung@gmail.com



Carol Lopez of Santa Fe -
New Mexico SCI State Coordi-
nator. Note: She is planning a
state sister cities meeting April
2008 in Albuquerque. We will
need homestay volunteers.



Mailing
Address
Goes
Here

Albuquerque Sister Cities Wins 2007 Innovation Award

Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION		THE ALBUQUERQUE	
Annual Dues		sister cities	
Membership is: <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal		P.O. Box 26693 Albuquerque, NM 87125	
<input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL ADULT \$20.00		NAME _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> AMBASSADOR (AGE 21-35) \$20.00		ADDRESS _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY \$30.00		CITY _____ STATE _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL YOUTH (AGE 13-20) \$ 7.50		ZIP _____ PHONE _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR CITIZEN (65 OR OLDER) \$10.00		E-mail/Fax _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> SMALL BUSINESS (15 OR LESS EMPLOYEES) \$100.00			
<input type="checkbox"/> LARGE CORPORATION \$300.00			
<input type="checkbox"/> NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION EXCHANGE			
WEB SITE: WWW.ALBUQUERQUE-SISTER-CITIES.ORG			