

Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

August 2010

2010-2011

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Albuquerque Hosts SCI Annual Conference

From July 29-31, 2010, the City of Albuquerque hosted the Sister Cities International Annual conference. The theme was "Community Diplomacy: Empowering Partnerships and Programs." Attendees from across the USA and around the globe started arriving on Wednesday afternoon. Some of the international participants came from Africa - Ghana, Senegal, Morocco and Kenya. Some came from Europe - Larne and Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland and Germany (including our sister city of Helmstedt). There were folks from Mexico (including our sister city of Chihuahua) and Brazil. And, from Asia, they came from the Philippines, Japan, China, and Korea.

ASCF had the largest number of volunteer EVER in SCI history - 125 +!!! The turquoise shirts were everywhere. With a big smile, they greeted, registered, escorted, and answered questions. In the process, many new friendships were formed. A HUGE thank you to all who served.



Yu-Lin Shen and his wife Rubing volunteering at the registration desk.

ASCF volunteers help stuff SCI conference bags.



Karin Cyrol from Helmstedt, Germany (our sister city) enjoyed participating in the SCI conference.

International Economic Development Forum at SCI Conference

Thursday, July 29th started off with an exciting forum which focused on the challenges and opportunities associated with international economic development. While enjoying pastries and coffee, the group was welcomed by Carol Robertson-Lopez, a board member of SCI and from NM. Panel members included Fred Mondragon, Cabinet Secretary, Economic Development Department of New Mexico; Tom Garrity, President, Garrity Group; John Garcia, Director of Economic Development, City of Albuquerque; Rebecca Wurzbarger, Mayor Pro-Tempore, City of Santa Fe; Danielle Duran, Director, International Trade Office, State of New Mexico; and Noreen Scott, President, Rio Rancho Economic Development Corporation. A lively question and answer period followed the presentations.



International Economic Development Panel

From the President's Desk...

Congratulations, Albuquerque! You did it! You showed over 500 people and 17 nations how New Mexico defines hospitality! In a word - Enchanting!

Now that the 54th Sister Cities International (SCI) Conference is over, we have a lot for which to be thankful. First, let me thank the City of Albuquerque for its support in bringing the conference here in the first place. The Albuquerque Convention and Visitor Bureau (ACVB) first placed the bid almost three years ago, and provided wonderful help from start to finish. Thanks to my fellow Host Committee members. Chris Chavez (City's EDD office) and Cecilia Padilla-Quillen (ACVB). You and your offices, respectively, provided great support. Also, Santa Fe resident and SCI board member Carol

Robertson-Lopez deserves recognition as always championing New Mexico's interests. We won't forget her part in convincing the SCI board that Albuquerque is a great place to host a Sister Cities conference. And, special thanks, to Patrick Madden and SCI's staff who were a pleasure to work with.

From the starting tour at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, throughout the various tracks and forums, plenary session, receptions, awards luncheon, and finally to the wonderful UNM John Robb Musical trust concert coordinated by Trust Chair Jim Bonnell - many of you reading this newsletter were there - as volunteers!! Albuquerque now has the distinction of having more volunteers than any other conference in 54 years. Thank you, Las Cruces, for your support and volunteers. Thank you

Volunteer Team Leaders (Dave Bagley, Carol Dawley, Judy Love, Bob Montoya and Mary Hope Buckler) for a great job of coordination.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank those organizations that provided entertainment for our conference, many at generous discounts: Andrew Thomas (in Belfast one year ago as part of ACVB's reception); Albuquerque's National Institute of Flamenco (opening plenary session); Villanueva Entertainment/Dineh Tah' Dancers/Baila! Baila! (Mayor's Reception); and the UNM Robb Trust who provided for free the food and entertainment featuring pianist Tatiana Vetrinskaya - originally from our sister city of Ashgabat, Turkmenistan - at the classic downtown Kimo Theater.

But, when all was said and done I believe it was the smiling faces behind those turquoise shirts that made all the delegates feel that they were special. Thank YOU for helping wherever you could. You were and are in a word - Enchanting!

Richard

Richard Buckler

A Special Kimo Theater Presentation for SCI

On Saturday, July 31st, the UNM Robb Musical Trust presented for the SCI conference "Under the Influence...", music by John Donald Robb and composers he influenced: James Galloway and Michael Mauldin. One of the performers was Tatiana Vetrinskaya, a pianist originally from Turkmenistan.

Albuquerque volunteers, wearing turquoise shirts, guided the SCI folk to the theater, ushered, collected tickets and helped to serve refreshments at the conclusion of the evening's entertainment.

The Kimo Theater opened in 1927 as a pueblo-deco picture palace. It fell into disrepair following the exodus from downtown that so many American cities experienced. Slated for demolition, the City of Albuquerque purchased the building in 1977, and citizens voted to renovate and preserve the unique structure.



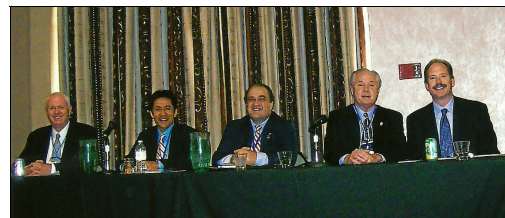
Volunteers serving refreshments.

Sally Alice Thompson, founder and past chair of the Ashgabat, Turkmenistan committee presents flowers to pianist Tatiana Vetrinskaya.

Mayor Berry Actively Participates in SCI Conference

Mayor Richard J. Berry of Albuquerque was on a panel for "Insight from Mayors and Elected Officials with an International Focus." ASCF member Dave Bagley was present at this forum. He reported: "Mayor Berry discussed his recent election as mayor. As a businessman, he is interested in what benefits the city gets from its contractors. He had been briefed by Director EDD John Garcia about the function of Albuquerque sister cities. Mayor Berry is convinced that the long relationship between the city and ASCF is a positive one that will continue to benefit the city in many ways. In the few months he has been in the office, he strongly supports the cultural interaction with our sister cities; especially how ASCF benefits the city and the people of Albuquerque. Berry also explained that he was a NM state representative prior to his election as mayor."

On Friday, July 30th, Mayor Berry hosted a reception for the conference attendees. Folks followed the "turquoise trail" from the Hyatt to the Convention Center. ASCF volunteers, sporting turquoise shirts lined the sidewalk to show the way. At the reception there was a sampling of New Mexico food. Albuquerque's heritage was highlighted in the music and dance of Native American and mariachi folk groups. Joining those enjoying themselves were the youth attending the SCI Youth conference and those visiting from our sister city, Sasebo, Japan.



Panel for "Insight from Mayors and Elected Officials with an International Focus." Mayor Richard J. Berry is seated on the right.



Performers at Mayor Berry's reception.



Students from our sister city Sasebo, Japan who helped greet the SCI youth conference attendees- enjoying Mayor Berry's reception.



SCI Attendees Tour Indian Pueblo Culture Center

Wednesday evening, July 28th, some of the SCI conference delegates toured the Indian Pueblo Culture Center, which is owned and operated by the All Indian Pueblo Council. While some dined at the Center, others arrived in time for the tour. The group was first greeted by Katherine Augustine, a Laguna Pueblo woman who is also a member of

ASCF. Phillippe and Gregg, the tour guides, each took half of the group, providing a comprehensive tour of the gallery and museum. At the end of the tour, Gregg sang a native blessing, accompanying himself on the drum. All present were glad to have participated, learning much about the Pueblos of New Mexico.

A HUGE thank you to Alana McGrattan for coordinating this special event.

SCI conference attendees in front of Indian Pueblo Culture Center



Katherine Augustine (center) greets tour group



SCI Youth Leadership Conference

Reported by Kate Suazo,
youth delegate

What a great conference it was! Seventy youth from across the USA and around the world attended. We learned about community diplomacy through discussions, workshops and debates. Holding civil debates, we talked about serious matters such as solutions to the problems in Mexico (i.e. drug cartels) and the new immigration law in Arizona; gaining an understanding of other people's opinions. We also did some role-playing. In a "cultural showcase," we shared our talents. I was in a group that sang "Bubbly" while a friend accompanied us on the guitar. We did some touring of the area - an afternoon in Santa Fe, another afternoon in "Old Town" in Albuquerque and a visit to the Indian Pueblo Culture Center.

We joined the SCI International conference for a dessert reception where I met some folks from Northern Ireland and Karin Cyrol from Albuquerque's sister city, Helmstedt, Germany. Alana McGrattan played "La Bamba" on the

guitar while I sang along. Our group also attended Mayor Berry's reception Friday night. All enjoyed not only the food but the traditional NM entertainment. On our last night we had a dance - a chance to cement new friendships. My favorite part was learning about other people's cultures and how to relate to one another. Thank you so much ASCF for giving me a scholarship so that I could have this wonderful experience.



L to R: Back - Daniel (LA) and Wesley (AZ) Front - Max (FL), Heather, Kate (NM), Edson (TX), Tori (AZ) and Cazzy (TX)



Dessert reception : L - Kate (R) and friends R - Alan McGrattan and Kate perform "La Bomba"

Left: The whole gang in front of the Albuquerque Convention Center.

Arts Seminar and Luncheon

Thursday, July 29th there was a workshop about local arts agencies, their partners, resources and ways sister cities can work with them. Sherri Brueggermann, the City of Albuquerque's Public Arts Urban Enhancement Program Manager was present. After the session, the audience was invited to enjoy box lunches at Civic Plaza courtesy

of Creative Albuquerque, a local non-profit organization dedicated to the growth of the creative economy. Those serving in the photo are: Regina Chavez, Executive Director; Mike Sanchez, Arts Management Intern; and Julia Mandeville, Programs and Development Coordinator.



Hot Air Balloon Rides

Early, very early, Saturday morning (July 31st) three balloon crews gathered on the west mesa of Rio Rancho for a unique experience. With them were passengers Barbara Honig of Culver City, CA (she was the lucky recipient of a drawing from those who registered early in Belfast, Northern Ireland last year); Karin Cyrol (chair of Helmstedt, Germany's sister city program); and three officials from our sister city, Chihuahua, Mexico - Roberto Braham, Edgar Olivas and Antonio Amezaga (Note: Edgar's wife, Ana, who also came to the SCI conference in Albuquerque did not have a

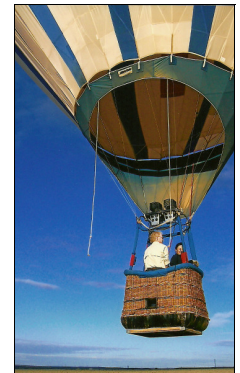
flight.) Karin and Barbara flew in "Aeolos" piloted by Alan Wynn. Roberto Braham and Antonio Amezaga flew in "Midnight Rainbow" piloted by Jeff Renegar. Edgar Olivas was flown by pilot David Fenske in "Crimson Star." The pilots are members of Albuquerque Aerostat Ascension Association and are among a select group of volunteers who have flown guests of ASCF since 1990. All thoroughly enjoyed their hot air ballooning experience. Several other conference attendees also decided to try hot air ballooning and they flew with Rainbow Ryders.



Dawn on the west mesa.



Karin Cyrol and Barbara Honig prepare to lift off.

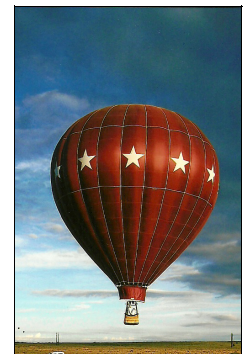


Antonio Amezaga and Roberto Braham await their balloon ride.



Up, Up and away!!

"Crimson Star" takes flight.



Prince Kwame Kludjeson of Ghana and Dr. Harold Bailey of NM Office of African-American Affairs

Other SCI Conference Photos



Carol Dawley greets Tito S. Sardon, Mayor of Daet, Philippines.

A gathering of friends, old and new.

Students from Sasebo, Japan Visit Albuquerque

Nine students from Albuquerque's sister city, Sasebo, Japan arrived Friday July 23rd for a week's visit. They were accompanied by city officials, Kenichiro and Yasunori Yoshizumi. This was Kenichiro's first trip to the USA and Yasunori's second trip (he visited Orlando, FL previously). The host families met their students at the airport and then served them an "American" supper. Some had pizza, while others had barbecue chicken or went to Route 66 Diner for a burger and shake.

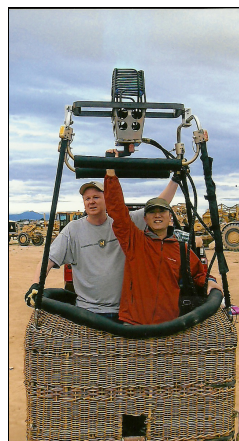
ASCF thanks the host families for their hospitality: the Renegars, the Szucs; the Smiths; the Gutierrez; the Roybals; the Merrells; the Ostroms; the Slagles and the Feathers. The Sasebo students were Shiori Mine; Ayaka Tobo; Akina Kanaya; Yamato Kakehashi; Rikiya Yamaguchi; Kohei Fujita; Yutaro Tsuruta; Koya Yamaguchi and Kazuki Minato.

Early Saturday morning the group gathered for a hot air balloon ride. However the weather was not cooperative. Instead, several pilots set up their baskets and the guests had the opportunity to climb in and pose for a photo while firing up the burners! Bill Kennedy, a scorer/observer for "Top Gun"

was on hand to greet the group. He brought with him a Japanese flag which he obtained while in Saga City, Japan for the world championships. Some of the pilots present were: "Terrible Tom" dressed as a pirate, flying "Pirate's Treasure"; "Bonzai Ben" dressed in a leather helmet, flying "Sundagger"; "Sunflower Bob" sporting a casual hat with a flower, flying "Patturms in the Sky"; and Clarke O'Byrne flying "Viento Encantado."

On Sunday afternoon, there was a welcoming gathering at the Sasebo Japanese Garden at the Rio Grande Biopark. The Sasebo students performed for those gathered in the Rose Garden - a Sasebo folk dance (audience participation was encouraged), and martial arts. Refreshments were served, including a special cake saying, "Welcome Japanese Students and Host Families Sasebo Youth Exchange July 2010."

The week's visit was jammed pack full of adventures. They went to the zoo, museums, rode the tram to the top of Sandia Peak, enjoyed an Isotopes baseball game and welcomed SCI youth leadership delegates.



Sunflower Bob, Bonzai Ben, Kenichiro, and Terrible Tom



Performing martial arts in Biopark.



Enjoying the special cake at the Biopark - L to R: Sasebo students, Kazumi Kawakubo, and Kenichiro.

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City Opens Office to Aid Businesses

On Tuesday, July 6, 2010, Mayor Richard Berry opened the Albuquerque Business Center. John Garcia, Director for Economic Development Department for the City of Albuquerque said that the business center is a place where those interested in doing business with the city can receive help in breaking down the "red tape." The center, located on the 11th floor of City Hall, will offer business-training programs, seminars and job fairs. It will also act as a liaison with other city departments. They look forward to working with Albuquerque's nine sister cities, connecting them with the international office.



John Garcia, Economic Development Director and Mayor Richard J. Berry

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Sept. 15 - ASCF Board Meeting - Sandia Labs Federal Credit Union - 3707 Juan Tabo NE - 5:15

ASCF trip to Helmstedt, Germany - Sept. 17 - 27

Sept 26 - Aki Matsuri (Japanese Cultural Event) - National Hispanic Cultural Center - 10 - 6 - Botanic Gardens and ASCF Sasebo Committee will have a booth - for more info contact Kazumi Kawakubo at 994-4692

Oct. 30 - Helmstedt Committee event 12 - 4 pm - youth fundraiser .

Nov. 17 - ASCF Board Meeting - 3707 Juan Tabo NE - 5:15

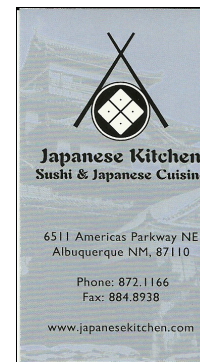
Please support our business partners.

Helmstedt Party!

On Saturday, October 30, 2010, the Helmstedt Committee is celebrating Oktoberfest their way. As a fund raiser, it will help sponsor local youth who wish to attend a summer camp in Helmstedt, Germany.

Cost: \$10 in advance, \$15 at door Time: noon - 4 pm Location: To be announced

For more info, please contact Nathan Young at 977-6033 or nathaneyoung@gmail.com

**Lanzhou China**

Tentative plans are being made to participate in a student exchange to our sister city, Lanzhou; perhaps as early as June 2011. For more info please contact Jian Zhu at 872-0610 or jzhuabq@gmail.com



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In This Issue...

City of Albuquerque Hosts SCI Annual International Conference July 29-31, 2010

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FOUNDATION, Inc.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult - Single/Family | \$20/\$30 |
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Membership Application

☐ New ☐ Renewal

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