

# Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

Summer 2011

2011-2012

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## ASCF Holds Annual Meeting

On Sunday June 5, 2011, ASCF held its annual meeting and election of officers. The membership gathered at the Evergreen Buffet Restaurant. This year, ASCF's Chinese sister cities were featured.

The honored guests included Heather Brewer, District Director from Rep. Martin Heinrich's office; Stephan Helgesen, Honorary Consul of Germany; Davis Begay, Honorary Consul of Japan; Steve Togumi, President of NM Japanese American Citizens League; Chu Jong, President NM Chinese Association; Rusty Chan, National Grand Secretary and local lodge President of Chinese American Citizens Alliance; Li Lee Louie, Vice President and Linda Louie Membership Chair of local lodge of Chinese American Citizens Alliance; David Hsi, Advisor and Past President of local lodge of Chinese American Citizens Alliance; Master Charles Lin, of Chinese Culture Center and Lin's Martial

Arts Academy; Larry Littlefield, President of Friendship Force; and Bill Yarnell, Past President of Albuquerque Council of International Visitors.

An "Ode to Chinese Food" was read, followed by a delicious meal.

Checks for \$570 from ASCF was presented to NM Japanese American Citizens League. This was to aid the citizens of Japan involved with the earthquake and tsunami.

Entertainment focused on Hualien and Lanzhou. Dr. Yu-Lin Shen, Hualien Chair spoke about that city and David Hsi, Lanzhou Chair, highlighted his city. Then followed the children from the Chinese American Citizens Alliance and the Chinese Culture Center performing some traditional dances.

Election of ASCF officers was held - those elected were the same as last year.

Many thanks to all who helped make this a successful event.



Presenting ASCF check to NMJACL.

Left to Right: Steve Togumi, President of NMJACL; Naomi Takeguchi, citizen of Sasebo who led a youth delegation to Albuquerque several years ago; and Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman, Chair of Sasebo Committee



Master Charles Lin and his wife with children from the Chinese Culture Center



September 10, 2011  
ASCF Asian Sister Cities Concert  
FREE  
Ticket Information Page 6

## *From the President's Desk...*

It's summertime in the Land of Enchantment and I'm sure by now you've enjoyed countless BBQ meals with your favorite meat, salad, melon and of course, ice cream! Whatever the summer cuisine, it brings back memories of yesteryear when things seemed a little less complicated and people spent more time with their families and neighbors. Food and friendships - they go together. We involved in Albuquerque Sister Cities can appreciate the magic.

One highlight of this newsletter will describe how many of us gathered together at the Evergreen restaurant on June 5 for our annual meeting. This year, we were joined by friends from our federal government, Honorary Consul Generals from Germany and Japan, as well as other local leaders of like-minded organizations. And the conclusion - there are so many areas in which to work together.

Another highlight is the report on the recent Helmstedt youth trip, led by Nathan Young. Nathan is to be congratulated for an excellent job in showcasing Germany to some of our future leaders. It shouldn't be too surprising to hear that our youth made great friends and enjoyed the food. And, guess what? Their new German friends will be coming here to Albuquerque next summer.

September 10 will highlight our Asian Sister Cities. Thanks to several of our partners in the community, we will celebrate the beauty of Asia while remembering the tenth anniversary

of September 11. And, at the concert, be prepared to meet some special guests visiting from Turkmenistan, as part of an Open World project. They are here from September 9 - 17. Later in the month, several youth ambassadors will attend Riverside, California's Sister Cities International regional conference to learn more about citizen diplomacy.

Citizen Diplomacy is also be the theme of the Albuquerque Council of International Visitors' summit on October 5. I hope many of you will participate with our friends from ACIV, while enjoying the great speakers, workshops, and receptions they have lined up. On October 10, let us wish our friends from Hualien, Taiwan a very warm Happy Birthday, as they celebrate the Republic of China's 100th year anniversary. And, later in the month, it's off to Ashgabat for some of us, as we join with our friends in Turkmenistan in celebrating 20 years of independence from the former USSR.

Occasionally, we have to say goodbye to our family and friends. Recently, some of us gathered to pay tribute to Don Thompson, a former New Mexico State Senator and Representative, activist with Veterans for Peace and the late husband of the founder of our Ashgabat Committee, Sally-Alice Thompson. Earlier in the year, we joined Martha Bedeaux and her family, at the memorial to her mother, Margaret Dike, one of ASCF's past presidents. Gracious and unflappable to the end, Margaret was a lifetime advocate for community

causes both local and international, especially those related to history, education, environment, and the betterment of women and children. We want to express our heart-felt condolences to the families of these and any other members that have left us.

One thing I remember about both Don and Margaret was their love of books. Recognizing the importance reading plays in teaching our community about the wonderful, multi-ethnic world in which we live; ASCF continued to follow-up this year on a book and library exchange with sister city Ashgabat. This year ASCF distributed 80 books from Ashgabat (written in English) split among our three largest library systems here in Albuquerque (UNM, CNM, and ABC). Then, this summer we joined with ABC to help sponsor their summer reading program based on the theme - One World, Many Stories. We spoke six times focusing on many of the countries in which our sister cities are located, and donated special items for the grand prizes to the top readers.

So, enjoy the rest of the summer. Look on your book shelf or go to the library to get your favorite international cookbook (there's one from Turkmenistan at the San Pedro Library). Then invite over some friends, cook a little and celebrate life.



Richard Buckler

## **Future ASCF Exchanges**

Oct. 2011 - ASCF adults to Ashgabat

July 2012 - Helmstedt, Germany youth to Albuquerque

Summer 2012 - ASCF youth to Sasebo

Sept. 2012 - ASCF adults to Helmstedt

## 2011-2012 Chairs

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Guadalajara, Mexico  
Vacant

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*ASCF Youth Trip to Helmstedt, Germany*

By Nathan Young, Chair  
Helmstedt Committee

A student exchange occurred on July 8 - 18 in Helmstedt, Germany led by Nathan Young. Six New Mexican youth stayed with German families that had children of a similar age. They were Catherine Suazo, Chris Feather, Kathryn Szuc, Lindsey Baker, Jennifer Baker and Kristen Baker. Our youth were introduced to German culture and language.

The week began with a day with their host families and then a bus tour of Hamburg on Monday. On Tuesday they had a meeting with Mayor Eisermann and the Helmstedt sister city board. That same day there was a city tour of Helmstedt and its surroundings. The youth were able to learn about the division of Germany and its impact on the people. They also had day tours of Brunswick and a VIP tour of the famous VW

auto plant in Wolfsburg.

The week in Helmstedt ended with a pleasant barbecue on the Makowka family farm outside the city. All the students and their host families attended. This event showed everyone how close our students and their new German families became in such a short time.

The trip ended with a two-night stay in Berlin where they took a city tour, visited the DDR museum next to museum island, shopped and found time to relax and reflect upon what they experienced with their Sister Cities exchange.



Meeting Mayor Eisermann, who is front row 2nd from left, are ASCF youth delegation and Helmstedt sister cities committee.

By Kate Suazo, youth participant

The trip to Germany was one of the best experiences of my life. I had a great time learning new things, spending time with amazing people and meeting new friends. I learned so much about the culture and history while we had fun eating "ice" and bread. Nathan was a terrific guide to the city of Berlin and had us cracking up. We really enjoyed spending time with each other and our host families. I especially liked learning new words in German and helping them with their English. To all who set this up, all my thanks and appreciation. We would not have had such an amazing time without all the work you did. An even bigger thank you to Nathan, who put up with our silliness and teenage behavior. Over all the trip was fan-

By Chris Feather, youth participant

This trip to Germany was full of many great experiences. Some of the best memories that I have brought back are those of visiting the Autostadt in Wolfsburg and taking a tour of Berlin. I am very interested in cars, so I was thrilled to be able to tour the Volkswagen factory and to see how the VW Golf is made. Also going to the museum at the autostadt, seeing all the old European cars was awesome. On the last day of our journey, we took a six hour walking tour of Berlin. This tour was extremely informative and very well done. During it we saw an array of historic sites and many styles of architecture that showed the contrast between old and new. This trip was a wonderful experience and I am glad that I was able to take part in it.



Enjoying a boat ride in Hamburg - L to R: Kate Suazo, Chris Feather and Kathryn Szuc



Kate Suazo and Lindsey Baker with a bear in Berlin.



## *ASCF Members Speak at Libraries*

ASCF was a part of the Bernalillo County Library summer reading program. Chairs of our sister cities committees and other involved members were the presenters.

On June 11, 2011 Alma Solis, Chair of Chihuahua, presented at the South Valley Library

On June 14, Eva Gonzales, Chair of Albuquerque, spoke at the South Broadway Library.

On June 16, David Hsi, Lanzhou Chair prepared a speech for the East Mountain Library.

On June 18, Richard Buckler and Alana McGrattan talked about Ashgabat at the Juan Tabo Library.

On June 26, Nathan Young, Helmsstedt Chair, talked at the Cherry Hills Library.

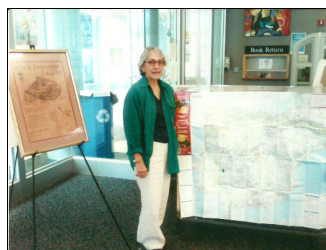
On June 30, Denise Mullen spoke about student exchanges with Sasebo, Japan at the North Valley Library.

ASCF President, Richard Buckler was present at all sessions. He had book marks about ASCF to give to the audience.

ASCF also donated some gifts to be given at the end of the summer reading program.



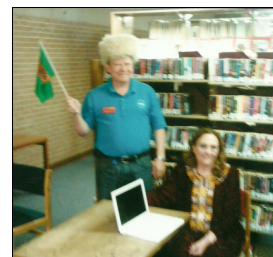
Alma Solis



Eva Gonzales



David Hsi



Richard Buckler and  
Alana McGrattan



Nathan Young



Denise Mullen

## *CNM Libraries To Send 6 Message Banners to Sasebo, Japan*

CNM Libraries have six banners (3 x 3) with heartfelt messages from people in the community at the six locations of CNM libraries expressing wishes for healing and peace for people of Japan. This project started right after they heard about the heart-breaking news of the earthquake and tsunami that devastated Japan. Poppy Johnson-Renvall, Associate Director of CNM Libraries organized the program.

First was an origami display coupled with instructions for disaster donations. "When I heard about the tsunami and earthquake in Japan, I immediately wanted to bring awareness to their tragedy and also show support for the Japanese people. The Japanese crane is a symbol of peace, luck, and well wishes, so folding the cranes and telling people how to donate to the Red Cross seemed to go hand in hand. The cranes

have been well received and many library patrons have folded cranes to add to the library collection."

Secondly was making banners available for people to sign their wishes of peace and healing. The outpouring of support has been wonderful. Ms. Johnson-Renvall adds, "It shows that CNM students, faculty and staff are global citizens and really care about what happens to people around the world."

The City of Sasebo will be very touched by the community effort in Albuquerque. The banners are to be mailed/shipped to Sasebo so that they can be displayed at the Sasebo libraries.

## *Hualien Chair and Co-Chair Visit our Taiwan Sister City*



Hualien Mayor Tien presenting Yu-Lin Shen and Rubing Hsu with a gift for Albuquerque.

The Hualien Chair and Co-chair, Yu-Lin Shen and Rubing Hsu, traveled to Taiwan in June 2011. On June 13, they met with Mayor Mr. Chih-Hsuan Tien of Hualien, several city officials and the vice chair of their city council.

Mayor Tien expressed his gratitude for the greeting letter written by Mayor Berry of Albuquerque and to the Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation for actively engaging in sister cities activities. He expressed that the City of Hualien cherishes the 28 year-old relation with Albuquerque very much, and hopes to further enhance it in whatever way. There is an interest in a summer student exchange arrangement if an appropriate program can be identified on both sides. In exchange of the gifts, we brought there an Indian-style wool blanket and a poster of the painting "Acoma Sunrise" autographed by the artist Luke Rehnberg. Mayor Tien presented us with some Hualien items which will be put on display.

## NM Sister Cities State Conference

April 29 & 30, 2011 were the dates for the NM Sister Cities State Conference.

Friday night, Richard and Mary Hope Buckler hosted an evening reception at their home.

Saturday all gathered for information sharing. Albuquerque, Las Cruces and Santa Fe each spoke about their current programs. There was a group panel discussion on youth involvement in Sister Cities. Kate Suazo, an Albuquerque Sister Cities youth member and David Eiffert, Youth Pastor at Believers Center of Albuquerque, participated. Carol Lopez, NM State Coordinator led a discussion on how to engage elected officials in Sister Cities. The luncheon keynote speaker was Bernardo Rubenstein, an orchestra conductor, who talked about his travels to Cuba.



Carol Lopez & Bernardo Rubenstein



Kate Suazo and David Eiffert

## *Chinese Celebrate 100th Anniversary*

By David Hsi

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China (now Taiwan), three Chinese citizen leaders and representatives from Los Angeles and Phoenix drove a 35-foot-long well furnished trailer, commemorating the occasion. They traveled from coast to coast covering some 40 cities (and over 10,000 miles) in the USA and Canada. They stopped by Albuquerque between Phoenix and Oklahoma City on May 15. Thanks to the arrangements by the president of the Asian American Association

of NM (AAANM), Sue Thorson and the city government, the trailer was allowed to park beside Civic Plaza where various organizations affiliated with AAANM were having their display booths and stage performances that day.

Among those present were: David Hsi, ASCF's Lanzhou Chair; Sidney Yen, former Hualien Chair; and ASCF president Richard Buckler. The three out-of-state Chinese representatives enjoyed watching some of the stage performances and stayed several hours visiting with David and Sidney before leaving for Oklahoma City that afternoon.

SISTER CITIES CELEBRATE CULTURE  
MUSIC AND DANCE  
FROM ALBUQUERQUE'S ASIAN SISTER CITIES  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2011

South Broadway Cultural Center  
1025 Broadway SE

Tickets are Free, but limited to the first 300 people!

Featured performances by:

Tatiana Vetrinskaya - pianist - representing Turkmenistan

**A special THANK YOU to Piano Werkes for donating the Grand Piano for the Concert!!**

Chaco Lin & Pei-Pei Chu - soloist & pianist - representing Taiwan

Albuquerque Chinese Christian Church - folk dancers - representing China

Yi Fan (Chinese Student Friendship Association) - Pipa soloist - representing China

Chinese Culture Center - dancers - representing China

Mike Penny - Tsugaru Shamisen performer - representing Japan

New Mexico Taiko - Taiko drummers - representing Japan

**TO GET TICKETS:** Call South Broadway Cultural Center (848-1320) or Albuquerque Sister Cities (933-5563) [vp3@albuquerque-sister-cities.org](mailto:vp3@albuquerque-sister-cities.org)

**ASCF youth group will hold a homemade BAKE SALE during intermission.**



## Guadalajara Delegation Visits Albuquerque

A delegation from Guadalajara visited Albuquerque May 18-21, 2011. They are working on a joint project with Sandia Labs - Micro Electronic Mechanical Systems (MEMS). In the group were: Dr. Victor Gonzalez, Dr. Guillermo Garcia, Dr. Raul Campos, Dr. Mildreth Alcarez, Dr. Marco Gurrola and Maria Parga. Ernest Garcia from Sandia Labs made the arrangements for the visit. Wednesday during the day, the group visited UNM and met with several dignitaries - the Dean of Academic Affairs, the Dean of the School of Engineering and the Director of Latin American and Iberian Institute. In the evening, they were hosted by ASCF for dinner at County Line Restaurant. Besides the guests, there was the Consul from Mexico, Mauricio Ibarra Ponce de Leon; Deputy Consul, Daniel Dominguez Canto; Chris Chavez representing Mayor Berry; Dr. Jose Luis Cruz-Campa and Ernest Garcia from Sandia Labs. ASCF members present were: Richard Buckler, President; Bob Montoya, 1st Vice President; Carol Dawley, 2nd Vice President; Dave Bagley, 3rd Vice President; David Hsi, Lanzhou Chair; Eva Gonzales, Albuquerque Chair; Alma Solis, Chihuahua Chair; Betty Mae Hartman, past president; Kathy Hsi; Vic Dawley; and Julia and Gary Stone (Julia is past chair of Guadalajara). All enjoyed the barbecue meal served family style. To top off the meal, a special welcoming chocolate cake was served. Richard Buckler presented each visitor with a special pen from ASCF and encouraged them to return to Albuquerque for a longer visit. The guests and hosts were seated mingled and thus lively conversation abounded.

Dr. Victor Gonzalez Alvarez, head of the Graduate School for the University of Guadalajara, teaches advanced mathematics for chemical engineers. (Note: the University of Guadalajara has

250,000 students.) He received his doctorate in chemical engineering from the University of Minnesota. He said he was impressed with UNM's architecture, staying true to the area, rather than a typical university format. He is a big soccer fan but said that Mexico also enjoys baseball. The country's AAA team is part of the Caribbean League. Dr. Gonzalez also shared information about Guadalajara. Founder's Day is a big holiday there - it is celebrated on Valentine's Day, February 14th. The Mariachi Festival is held in May and the Fiesta de Octubre lasts for 40 days during which there are many parades. Although beer is consumed, tequilla is the main beverage of choice. In fact, Guadalajara has a "Tequilla Express." This train departs the downtown station at 10 am. After an hour ride, the patrons arrive in Amatitan. There they are transported to a tequilla factory where they are told all about tequilla. After lunch and a special show featuring mariachi bands, back to the train the guests go, arriving downtown about 8 pm. Considering that tequilla is served all day, including the train ride, it makes for a pleasant experience. Guadalajara also has round pyramids. Seems like the city has something for everyone!

Guillermo Garcia, head of the Electrical Engineering Department at the University of Guadalajara, has several interests. He enjoys cooking - especially red posole with pork. He is also a member of a mariachi group, playing a large guitar and singing. Drs. Raul Campos and Mildreth Alcarez are husband and wife and both focus on micro systems. Dr. Marco Gurrola is a professor of micro systems at the University of Guadalajara and Maria Parga is an Academic Secretary at that University.

On Thursday, the group was at Sandia Labs, interacting with Gil Herrera, Director of Micro Systems and the micro systems personnel. Steve Rottler, Vice President of Sandia Labs welcomed the group and took them to dinner in Old Town.

Friday saw the delegation visiting the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History. Ernest Garcia hosted the farewell party that evening. The delegation departed Saturday. They especially thanked ASCF for the positive and friendly reception, feeling that ASCF was a very energetic and welcoming group.



Guillermo  
Garcia &  
Victor  
Gonzalez



Ernest Garcia &  
Jose Luis Cruz



Marco Gurrola and  
Richard Buckler



Mexico Con-  
sul, Mauricio  
Ibarra and  
Maria Parga

# ACIV

Albuquerque Council for International Visitors

## Summit on Citizen Diplomacy Program

Tuesday, October 4

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm - Hard Rock Resort Hotel - reception honoring Harriet Fulbright and area Fulbright scholars and alumni

Wednesday, October 8

8:30 am - 1:30 pm - Main Campus, University of New Mexico Student Union - sessions on “Business and Global Markets”, “Diplomacy Education and Careers”, “Citizens meet the World Peace Corps, Fulbright Scholars, retired Foreign Service officers - first hand accounts of memorable international experiences” - luncheon keynote speaker Ambassador Walter L. Cutler “America and the Middle East, Coping with Crisis and Change.”

Cost is \$45

RSVP: ACIV office 505-888-1867



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat. Sept. 10, 2011 - ASCF FREE Concert -  
South Broadway Cultural Center - 2 pm - see page 6

Thurs. Sept. 15, 2011 - ASCF Board Meeting - 5:45 pm -  
Sandia Labs Federal Credit Union - 3707 Juan Tabo NE

Sept. 26, 2011 - Aki Matsuri - 10 am - 5 pm - National  
Hispanic Cultural Center

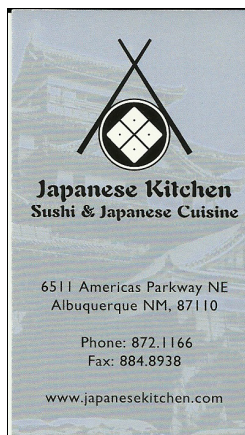
Sept. 30 - Oct. 1, 2011 - Sister Cities Regional Confer-  
ence - Riverside, CA. If interested in attending, contact  
Richard Buckler 291-8175 or rbuckler3@comcast.net

Oct. 10, 2011 - Happy 100th Birthday to the Republic of  
China!!!

October 24 - 31, 2011 - ASCF trip to Ashgabat, Turk-  
menistan. For more information, contact Chair Oguljan  
Young at 803-0247 or atamuradovna@yahoo.com

## IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep regret that we announce the  
death on March 31, 2001 of Margaret Dike.  
Margaret Dike was a past president of ASCF  
and also a past Sister Cities International state  
coordinator for New Mexico.



## What's On Our Website?

- ASCF Sister Cities Info
- ASCF Newsletter in COLOR
- Renew membership
- Pay by "Pay Pal"
- ASCF Event Calendar
- Special Links

## Ode to Chinese Food

Come to the round table - A feast for all  
seasons.

Invitation

Look at the elegant settings - Bone  
China chopstick holders, gracefully  
folded napkins, hot moist towels.

Anticipation

Smell the delicate aromas - Peking duck,  
Su Dong Po pork, Shanghai river fish.

Presentation

Taste the succulent savories - Sweet and  
sour, hot and spicy, cold and vinegary.

Participation

Hear the enjoyment - Sizzling food,  
clicking chopsticks, pleasant conversa-  
tion, numerous toasts.

Satiation

Sense the friendship and contentment

Remembrance

by Carol Dawley

## IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep regret that we announce the  
death on May 28, 2011 of Don Thompson,  
Sally-Alice Thompson's husband. Sally Alice  
is the founder of the Ashgabat, Turkmenistan  
Sister Cities relationship.

Albuquerque Sister Cities  
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87125-6533

**In This Issue...**

ASCF Annual Meeting - Youth Trip to Helmstedt, Germany - ASCF Library Speakers

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**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](http://WWW.ALBUQUERQUE-SISTER-CITIES.ORG)**