

# Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

Summer 2013

## 2013—2014 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@q.com

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

## Hualien and Albuquerque Celebrate 30th Anniversary of Twinning

To celebrate the Albuquerque-Hualien 30th Anniversary of being sister cities, there was an ASCF membership trip to Taiwan. ASCF President Richard Buckler led the group which consisted of Hualien Chair Yu-Lin Shen, Hualien Co-Chair Rubing Hsu (Shen), Angela Shen, Alan Shen, Jose Luis Cruz-Campa and his wife Tara McCune. The group was very well received by the Hualien City as well as the Taiwan Ministry of foreign Affairs. In addition to official meetings, there were a lot of sightseeing and cultural activities. Five balloonists from Albuquerque also joined the group while in Hualien.

David Hsi provided the history of the affiliation. "Mayor Harry Kinney had just returned from a trip to Taiwan with mayors from other cities and he was greatly impressed by the friendliness and hospitalities extended by the Tai-



Mayor of Hualien (center between Richard Buckler and Dave Bagley) welcomes the ASCF delegation and Albuquerque balloonists.

wan officials and people. I had collaborative agreements with the Taiwanese scientists sponsored by the National Science Foundation and visited Taiwan quite frequently. Also at that time, I was one of the elected members of the APS Board of Education. That was the reason why Mayor Kinney asked me to explore the possibility of a sister city relationship with a city in Taiwan. At that time Hualien did not have any sister city in the USA and the then

Mayor Chen and the Hualien city government welcomed the opportunity. We had a very large celebration at the Albuquerque Convention Center in the Fall of 1983 with ROC chief representative Honorable Mr. Chen representing Hualien and ROC at the signing."

[See other photos and articles of the trip inside the newsletter]

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  
Jose Luis Cruz-Campa  
915-760-3291  
joecampa@yahoo.com

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  
Janice Moranz  
417-3787  
janicemoranz@comcast.net

Sasebo, Japan  
Kazumi  
Kawakubo-Todman  
235-0597  
kazumikawakubo@gmail.com

## From the President's Desk...

Several congratulations are in order for three of our sister cities this year: Albuquerque, Spain (10 years linked with us), Helmstedt, Germany (30 years), and Hualien, Taiwan (30 years). To commemorate 3 decades of twinning, a German delegation will visit us the first week of October led by former Mayor Eisermann. All members are invited to attend an early evening BBQ reception on October 8 given in their honor. See note on Upcoming Events for details.

Also, in this newsletter we report on our visits to both Albuquerque and Hualien. Adam Trujillo, former Hispano Chamber Board member, represented us in a visit to Albuquerque, Spain. I was able to visit Hualien for the first time (hopefully not my last). I was quite impressed with the hospitality we received, the culture and history, and the beautiful island of Taiwan. Special thanks to Chair Yu-Lin Shen and his wife Rubing who did a great job of creating a unique experience. Check out Dave Bagley's report to find out how Hualien County shares our passion for ballooning. A return trade-mission trip to Taiwan, led by Commissioner Hart-Stebbins and coordinated by ASCF board member

Randy Trask will take place the first week of September. All of the other activity—trips to Israel, China, Mexico—help highlight the fact that being a sister city member promotes friendship throughout the world. Thank you for your participation.

*Richard*



Taipei 101—World's tallest skyscraper in 2004

## Convention Center Cabinets Removed

By Dave Bagley:

The eight cabinets that Albuquerque Sister Cities purchased in the 1980s to display cultural items from our various sister cities have been removed from the Convention Center. The cabinets were in a hallway in the basement of the building.

The Chairs for each city packed our displays on Au-

gust 3<sup>rd</sup> and they are now in storage. The cabinets were distributed to the city Biopark and DRB Electric.

Planning for the future is to have a large digital display in the Convention Center that will show more of the culture of our sister cities, and the ability to update each display quickly and effortlessly.

Mayor's Appointee to ASCF Board:  
Randy Trask—  
Manager of Albuquerque-Bernalillo  
Trade Alliance and Encuentro presi-  
dent.

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## Albuquerque Sister Cities Trip to Rehovot

By: Shira Greenberg

In May 2013, Albuquerque's Sister City of Rehovot, Israel greeted visitors from the Albuquerque Bernalillo County International Trade Alliance with warm, open arms. Mayor Malul and Deputy Mayor Blum welcomed the full delegation led by County Commissioner Wayne Johnson and organized by ASCF Board Member, Randy Trask. Deputy Mayor Blum spent the day with the group, personally leading a tour through the city including Rehovot's historic performing arts center, currently undergoing an extensive remodel to be completed in early 2014. ASCF Rehovot Co-Chair, Shira Greenberg, delivered letters hand-written by elemen-

tary school students at Albuquerque's Jewish Academy of Arts and Sciences to initiate a pen pal relationship with Rehovot children. She will be returning to Rehovot in the summer of 2014 with her company—Keshet Dance Company—to perform in the newly remodeled arts center as a continuation of the cultural exchange between our two cities. Rehovot's internationally renowned Weizmann Institute of Science hosted the delegation and provided an informative tour of the dynamic research facility. In addition to Rehovot, the group spent time in neighboring cities of Tel Aviv, Rishon Le Tzion and Jerusalem. As is usual in Israel, the people were amazing, the food was unbelievably delicious, the sea was spar-

ling and the views were breathtaking. We hope many of you will join us on our next trip to Israel.



From L to R: Susan Keith, Mayor Malul, Commissioner Johnson, Deputy Mayor Blum, Shira Greenberg.

## NM Office of African American Affairs Honors ASCF Member

On June 8, 2013, the 10th annual outstanding service awards were presented by the NM Office of African American Affairs. ASCF was one of the sponsors of the event with eight members attending the special luncheon. Patrick Mapalo from Zambia, ASCF member, now living in Albuquerque was one of the 18 award recipients. He was honored for his work with sister cit-

ies in forming twinings between Santa Fe, NM and Livingston, Zambia and between Clovis, NM and Kasama, Zambia. He is also working with Albuquerque to form a friendship relationship with Lusaka, the capital of Zambia.



L to R: ASCF member Linda Gregg and President Richard Buckler, join Patrick and Martha Mapalo at the award ceremony.

### ASCF Member Linda Gregg Visits Mayor of Lusaka, Zambia on Behalf of Albuquerque

In May, ASCF Member, Linda Gregg was in Zambia. While there she stopped by Lusaka City Hall. Mayor Chisenga graciously

received her and the letter and gifts she brought from Mayor Berry. Mayor Chisenga stated that the letter was important to

him as it will help him receive the necessary support from his City Council to make the trip to Albuquerque early next year. At the end of the meeting, several photographers showed up and took photos.



## SCI Conference

Sister Cities International held its annual international conference this year in July in San Antonio, Texas. Lin Ye, Jose Luis Cruz-Campa, Randy Trask and Richard Buckler represented Albuquerque. Lin, Randy and Jose were first time participants and felt they had learned a lot. Lin Ye said the message from the opening remarks was poignant—local people and government do the real work for the relationship. Randy Trask attended the international trade session where he learned about SBDC Global (a program that allows small

business buyers and sellers to find each other on the website. He has now registered the ABQ-Bernalillo Trade Alliance on the website as a partner. San Antonio is also a sister to Guadalajara and its mayor was at the conference. Jose Luis was able to spend quite some time with him talking about future plans for joint activities between Guadalajara and Albuquerque. Richard Buckler liked the practical suggestion of using Skype to stay more frequently connected to our sister cities.

## Public relations Officer from US Embassy in Turkmenistan visits Albuquerque

Brian Stimmler, Public Relations Officer from the US Embassy in Turkmenistan was briefly in town to visit his mother (who lives in Rio Rancho). He and his family (wife and 2 young girls) met with Oguljan and Nathan Young and their girls and Richard and Mary Hope Buckler on June 25. Brian was amazed that our organization is run by volunteers.



L. to R: Mr & Mrs Brian Stimmler, Mary Hope & Richard Buckler; Oguljan & Nathan Young

## Reaching out to China: Economic Friendship Cities

After Visiting Hualien and Taiwan, Richard Buckler met Jian Zhu—ASCF member and CEO of the American Chinese Civic Exchange—in mainland China. The two visited three different city/county governments in three days—Luogang, Guangzhou; Changsha County and Lin'an, Hangzhou. In each city/county Richard and Jian met with the respective Vice Mayors along with several department directors. For Jian, such interest showed that the cities took the meetings seriously. Jian presented a translated power-point that Randy Trask had provided on Albuquerque opportunities. Richard was asked to introduce and/or comment on the presentation, describing possible mutually beneficial projects. Lunch or dinner followed in the traditional “Lazy Susan” buffet service style. Nambe gifts, Navajo dream-catchers and ASCF coasters were given as gifts to the officials/businessmen, while the cities reciprocated with local specialties, such as tea and hickory nuts.



Luogang, Guangzhou representatives meet with Richard and Jian



Enjoying dinner with Vice Mayor Tan Haoran of Changsha County



Lin'an officials pose for pictures



Richard and Jian crack hickory nuts in the traditional way at Linan's famous Hickory Nut Museum

**Other China news:** Jian Zhu expects a visit in early October by a large group from Shenzhen, China coming here to tour Albuquerque and other Southwest destinations. David Hsi reports that Lanzhou officials are expected to visit Albuquerque in late October or early November.

# Albuquerque Balloons in Hualien

By Dave Bagley

I looked at the email twice. It read “Do you want to go as a crew chief for this?” and had a brief description of the 2013 Hualien International Hot Air Balloon Fiesta. Well, why not? So I called the organizer and said, “Yes.” Three weeks later I landed in Taipei, Taiwan with two other balloon pilots from Albuquerque and the next day we were on the express train to Guangfu Township in Hualien County. Here we met the rest of our group of pilots from Illinois, Idaho, Florida and France, Thailand and India. Crews had been hired locally and each team included a translator and truck driver. We got right to work unpacking the air-freighted balloons. The following afternoon was the opening ceremony which included the county magistrate, officials, news media, and a huge crowd of people who all wanted to see their first hot air balloons. My job was to work with pilot Tom Gough from Bliss, Idaho and help him fly his balloon around the local community each morning along with four other free-fly balloons from our launch site in nearby Danongdalu Forest Park. Every afternoon, Tom and I changed to a larger balloon and provided tether rides with five other balloons for the local population. The morning free flights lasted only for six days, then we returned to Albuquerque. The Tether balloons, pilots and crews remained and continued to provide daily rides during the summer festival until the end of August.

We made the most of our short stay, and tried to see as much of the sparsely populated east coast of Taiwan as we could during our off hours. Hualien County is located on the coastline about 2 1/2 hours south of the capital of Taipei. Guangfu is mostly rural, with endless rice paddies, warm,

friendly people and a nearby 7-11 store that carried everything from cold beer to mosquito repellent. Motor scooters are the preferred form of transportation and have their own lane on most Taiwan highways. We enjoyed local food, ate with chopsticks, and wilted under the hot and humid climate. We quickly learned some phrases in Chinese, but many times simply pointed to what we needed. Our translators were vital and, in return, we trained them on every aspect of ballooning so they could help manage our crews. The evening before we departed, we returned to our hotel at 8 PM tired, hot and drenched with sweat. A van pulled up with a tall stack of Pizza Hut boxes, and a chest of beer and soda for our going-away party. Since there was no Pizza Hut in Guangfu, the van was sent an hour north to Hualien City and brought back the first “western” meal during our stay. What a great send-off, with many of our crew and the remaining pilots and support staff there to enjoy our party.

The day we finished our 6-day commitment, the two other Albuquerque pilots and their wives met the Albuquerque Sister Cities contingent of seven in Hualien City to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the signing of our relationship. Hualien Chair, Yu-Lin Shen had carefully arranged for our participation with their group. Mayor Chih-Hsuan Tien greeted the Albuquerque delegation and we exchanged gifts. Then we were off to a spectacular lunch and an afternoon of sightseeing. While eating breakfast the following morning, I felt like I was swaying. Interestingly, I was. I felt my first earthquake, a light magnitude 5.6. In an hour or so, our party was headed to Taroko national Park for a full day of wonderful sights in Taiwan’s finest park, escorted

by “Roy,” our volunteer park guide. Early the following day, we were back on the express train to Taipei where we enjoyed the afternoon and last morning of sightseeing, including the famous Taipei 101, the world’s tallest skyscraper when it was built in 2004. On the long flight home, I thought about the people that we met, worked with and enjoyed, and hopefully will see again: The mountains; Pacific Ocean and black sandy beaches; green tropical gardens; rice paddies; fresh fruits and vegetables that really tasted fresh; trains that were on time, comfortable and affordable and Taiwan Choppers (motor scooters) everywhere. Maybe next year?

**Below: Balloons launch at Guangfu, Hualien County, Taiwan.**





## ASCF Holds its Annual Meeting

On Sunday, June 9, 2013, ASCF held its annual meeting at the National Hispanic Cultural Center. The focus was on our two Mexican sister cities—Guadalajara and Chihuahua. Attendees enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch while being entertained by live Mexican music. Alma Solis, Chair of Chihuahua committee spoke of a planned member trip to Chihuahua in September and Jose Luis Cruz-Campa, Chair of Guadalajara committee told of a member trip to Guadalajara in October. Elections were held and ASCF board members for 2013 - 2014 are listed on the front page of this newsletter. Carol Robertson-Lopez, New Mexico state coordinator and Sister Cities Int'l board member spoke of upcoming SCI activities. All enjoyed the pleasant gathering and time of sharing with fellow members. Thank you Alma and Jose for your hard work and the wonderful table decorations.



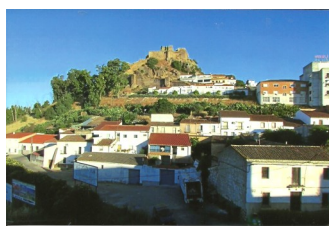
Carol Robertson-Lopez welcoming the ASCF annual meeting attendees.



L to R: Chuy Martinez and Otilio Ruiz entertain at the ASCF annual meeting.

## Albuquerque, New Mexico and Alburquerque, Spain Celebrate 10 Years

ASCF recognizes ten years of twinning with Alburquerque, Spain. ASCF member, Adam Trujillo was in Spain and spent 2 days in Alburquerque. In addition to presenting a Nambe plaque and Mayor Berry's letter to Mayor Vadillo, discussions were held on future col-



Castle landmark in Alburquerque, Spain



Adam Trujillo (3rd from rt) poses for picture with Albuquerque officials, including Mayor Vadillo (2nd from rt).

**Opportunity for Hosting:** Home Hosts are needed for visiting Turkmen dancers/artisans Dec 5—8. If you can help, call Ashgabat Chair Oguljan Young (917-4326) or email her at [atamuradovna@yahoo.com](mailto:atamuradovna@yahoo.com). Save the evening of Dec 7 for their performance.

## ASCF Dues Are Due!

It's time to renew our Annual membership Dues. Please check the mailing label on the front of this newsletter and renew your membership. By mail, fill out the application on the last page of this newsletter and mail it with your payment. For online renewal, simply access our membership page at <http://albuquerque-sister-cities.org/membership.php>. The process is easy, takes just a few minutes and payment is through PayPal. Note that you do not have to belong to PayPal; and there is no service charge to you. Questions or comments, please contact Dave Bagley, Membership Chair at 771-3114 email: [membership@albuquerque-sister-cities.org](mailto:membership@albuquerque-sister-cities.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 1-9 — Trade mission to Taiwan. Call Randy Trask for info: 231-0677.

Sept. 19—ASCF Board Meeting—5:45 PM—Sandia Lab Federal Credit Union - 3707 Juan Tabo NE—all welcome.

Sept.20-29—ASCF Membership trip to Chihuahua, Mexico—Contact Alma Solis 417-0525 or almasolis5@hotmail.com.

Sept. 29—Japanese Aki Matsuri 2013—National Hispanic Cultural Center—4th St. SW and Avenida Cesar Chavez. Stop by our Sasebo sister city booth.

Oct. 3 - 9—Delegation here from Helmstedt, Germany. If interested in participating in this visit, contact Nathan Young at 977-6033 or nathaneyoung@gmail.com. **Save the date: Oct 8.**

Oct. 26—Nov. 3—ASCF Membership trip to Guadalajara, Mexico—Contact Jose Luis Cruz —Campa at joecampa@yahoo.com or 915-760-3291 for info.

Late Oct or Early Nov. —Lanzhou officials to visit Albuquerque.

Dec. 7—Possible performance by Turkmen dancers/musicians/artisans. Location and time TBD. Stay tuned!

## SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER

**On May 19 several members enjoyed burgers and brew at B2B Bistronomy (Nob Hill). The restaurant donated part of the days sales, totaling \$381.79. Thank you to all who participated and came out. The monies raised will be used to help further performing arts with our sister cities.**

## SAVE THE DATE:

**October 8** —from 4 to 8 PM; farewell reception for our Helmstedt delegation. Location: Londene Farm 2155 Londene Lane SW, Alb, 87105. Contact Nathan Young for more details: 977-6033. Come at 4 to swim and relax. BBQ starts by 6 PM. All members invited. RSVPs appreciated by Oct 5.

## ASCF Members Trip to Hualien

By Richard Buckler

We thank Yu-Lin and Rubing, our Hualien chair and co-chair for their attention to detail. They made sure we all felt comfortable. Their choice of venues and tour spots were greatly satisfying: from ascending Taipei 101 to the National Palace to the local “crafts” store to New Taipei Harbor and the north-east shoreline and parks. I loved the long street “mall” where you can buy anything as you walk down the street. I particularly enjoyed meeting the people: Ambassador Bruce Linghu (who will be assigned as Consul General to the Los Angeles TECO office) and his staff; Michelle Keng (New Mexico’s representative assigned to Taiwan); Mayor Tien of Hualien City; Hualien City Council Chair Su Mei Chu and all the city staff who took us around Hualien; “Roy” our tour guide of the Taroko Gorge who had an excellent grasp of English colloquialisms and

National Dong Hwa University professor Chun-Chieh Chi and his wife Shu-Chun, who took us to dinner. He heads up the Indigenous Languages and Communication department and had a 6 month plus visit in Albuquerque a few years back.



Taroko Gorge, Hualien

Right: Hualien Mayor Tien and ASCF President Richard Buckler, who is wearing an indigenous-styled necklace received as gift.



Our delegation poses together at Yehlin Geopark on the Pacific Ocean north east of Taipei, Taiwan.



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CITIES FOUNDATION

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: Hualien and Albuquerque Anniversary Trips; Trade Mission to Israel, ASCF Annual Meeting.

**PO Box 26533**  
**Albuquerque, NM 87125-6533**  
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