

# Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

DECEMBER 2005

2005-2006  
OFFICERS

*President:*

*Dave Bagley*

771-3114

dave3114@gmail.com

*2nd V. President  
(Social)*

*Tuty Quinton*

296-2392

tuty2quinton@yahoo.com

*3rd V. President  
(Membership)*

*Richard Buckler*

291-8175

rbuckler3@comcast.net

*Secretary*

*Kay Carrico*

898-0036

kcaconnect@comcast.net

*Treasurer*

*Maja Whittington*

271-8944

majawhit@flash.net

-----  
*Newsletter Editor*

*Carol Dawley*

883-9516

crdawley@juno.com

## Celebrate Albuquerque's 300th

Plans are underway for the BIG celebration. Mayor Martin Chavz has issued formal invitations to Albuquerque's eight sisters. Kazumi Kawakubo was in Japan in late September and the Mayor of Sasebo ver-

---

*"Plans are under-  
way for the BIG  
celebration."*

---

bally accepted the invitation. Hualien, Taiwan notified Albuquerque's chair, Sidney Yen, that they have received the invitation and are starting to make plans to attend. In October, Ramon Gonzales visited with Mayor Vadillo of Albur-

querque, Spain and they are sending a delegation. While in Albuquerque, NM this October, the Helmstedt, Germany group affirmed that representatives from their city will be returning in July 2006.

July 4th we celebrate! There will be an air show at Kirkland Air Force Base, and at Balloon Fiesta Park, midst music, fireworks and birthday cake, a balloon lift off and balloon glow.

On another day, a formal dedication of the Japanese garden at the Botanical Gardens will occur.

Because of the increased activity being planned for this coming summer, the board will meet monthly starting



Tricentennial Hot Air Balloon

January 2006. A special committee will be established to oversee the coordination of our visitors.

It will assist in locating lodging and transportation of our special guests.

## Otachique School Shoe Tree

Albuquerque Manzano High School students received first prize at the State Student Council Conference for their shoe tree project. Students were encouraged to select a paper shoe from a tree on a bulletin board. After making their selection, they would purchase a new pair of shoes for the child (sex, age and size) on the shoe. Two students accompanied by a teacher and Alma Solis traveled to

Otachique School in Chihuahua, Mexico and personally delivered the shoes. This was the third year in a row that this project has occurred and the third year in a row that Manzano has taken first place in community service. This fall they took coats, jackets and gloves to the students in Otachique, Chihuahua.

Alma Solis giving a young

man from Otachique a new jacket from those collected by Manzano High School students.



# From The President's Desk

During the past 3 months, Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation sent delegations to Guadalajara, Mexico & Chihuahua, Mexico and had visits from Helmstedt, Germany & Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

Julia Stone led our group to Guadalajara along with representatives from Albuquerque's Office of Economic Development. We were busy from the moment we stepped off the plane. Speaking of planes, we should have direct flights from Albuquerque into Guadalajara by next March, when we & a large group of Albuquerque businesses are planning a return trip. Albuquerque is working hard to develop trade relationships between our two cities.

Alma Solis and I rode to Chihuahua with 28 crews of Albuquerque's hot air balloonists. The balloon rally was the largest in Mexico and was great fun. While in Chihuahua, Mayor Chavez met with Mayor Blanco and mayors

from Chihuahua's sister cities of Pueblo, CO and Midland, TX. Albuquerque is working with Chihuahua to develop trade relationships here, as well as with Guadalajara.

While we were in Chihuahua, Wolfram Krank greeted a group from Helmstedt, Germany. I had arranged a balloon flight for them, but I didn't get to participate in it as I was in Mexico. At their farewell reception I learned that everyone had a wonderful time. If you need to quench your thirst in Moab, Utah, ask Wolfram. He's an expert on their pubs.

Lastly, we entertained a small group from Ashgabat, Turkmenistan who were here as guests of the US State Department. Richard Buckler, Sally-Alice Thompson and Betty-Mae Hartman put together a busy day of sightseeing for them. We all had a chance to visit before they were off to Minneapolis, then New York and home.

Our office recently moved

to the Compass Bank Building at 505 Marquette, when the city's Department of Family and Community Services was relocated. Compass provides us with an office and conference room. We now enjoy their new facilities on the 14th floor.

I was surprised to find our website was inaccessible during the fall. I failed to notify the website provider when I moved, and it got locked up in cyberspace. It was easier to get a new address for it. Our new address is:

[www.Albuquerque-Sister-Cities.org](http://www.Albuquerque-Sister-Cities.org)

In Jan., we'll begin planning for the tricentennial visitors in July, promising to be a busy 6 months. If you have thoughts or ideas to share or would like to volunteer to help, please call or email me. It's going to be a busy year ahead, but one of fun & friendship. Come join us.

*Dave Bagley*

## A Rescued Dog

While in Chihuahua, Mexico with Albuquerque Sister Cities, Mayor Chavez rescued a stray dog. He was on his way to Copper Canyon when he spotted a stray dog on the side of the road. Mayor Chavez asked that the car stop and he scooped up the dog. As the mayor continued on his journey, the dog was sent to a downtown clinic

where a veterinarian checked him out. The dog now awaits the return of Alma, Chihuahua's Sister City Chair and Deborah James, Albuquerque's Public Information Officer. They will bring him back to NM to reside with Mayor Chavez.

Chihuahua has many stray dogs. Mayor Martin Chavez and Mayor Juan

Blanco of Chihuahua are now working together concerning the neutering of these animals.

Fear less, hope more;  
whine less, breathe more;  
talk less, say more;  
hate less, love more;  
and all good things are yours.

Swedish proverb

### 2005-2006 Chairs

*Albuquerque, Spain*  
*Ramon Gonzales*

873-0840

[rdgonzales@msn.com](mailto:rdgonzales@msn.com)

*Ashgabat,*

*Turkmenistan*

*Sally-Alice Thompson*

268-5073

[sally-aliceanddon@juno.com](mailto:sally-aliceanddon@juno.com)

*Chihuahua, Mexico*

*Alma Solis*

319-9718

[almasolis5@hotmail.com](mailto:almasolis5@hotmail.com)

*Guadalajara, Mexico*

*Julia Stone*

296-1676

[amores7268@aol.com](mailto:amores7268@aol.com)

*Helmstedt, Germany*

*Wolfram Krank*

281-2080

[wkrank@aol.com](mailto:wkrank@aol.com)

*Hualien, Taiwan*

*Sidney Yen*

296-7862

[sidyen@unm.edu](mailto:sidyen@unm.edu)

*Lanzhou, China*

*Elena Lu*

296-6481

[elenalu@aol.com](mailto:elenalu@aol.com)

*Sasebo, Japan*

*Kazumi Kawakubo*

994-4692

[kazumi.kawakubo@](mailto:kazumi.kawakubo@eclipseaviation.com)

[eclipseaviation.com](http://eclipseaviation.com)

# Meet Your Board: Maja & Kay

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### January

15 ASCF Board Mtg  
5 pm Compass Bank  
505 Marquette NW  
14th floor.

### February

15 ASCF Board Mtg  
5 pm Compass Bank  
505 Marquette NW  
14th floor.

### 18 NM State Sister Cities Meeting

### March

15 ASCF Board Mtg  
5 pm Compass Bank  
505 Marquette NW  
14th floor.

## WE'VE MOVED!

Albuquerque Sister  
Cities Foundation  
has moved. We  
now gather at the  
Compass Bank at  
505 Marquette NW  
on the 14th floor.  
The board meets the  
3rd Wednesday ev-  
ery other month at 5  
pm. Starting Jan-  
uary 2006, it will  
meet on a monthly  
basis to prepare for  
the BIG July 4, 2006  
celebration.

Maja Whittington is the treasurer of Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation, having joined about 3 or 4 years ago at the insistence of Margaret Dike. Both Maja and Margaret are former teachers. Maja used to teach accounting and computers at TVI. They both belong to a retired teachers association. Margaret stated that ASCF was in need of a treasurer and that Maja had just the skills to fill that position. Maja loves to travel, having one big trip a year. This past spring she went to Egypt. When she is in town, she volunteers - as a tax preparer for AARP; past president of the Albuquerque Institute of Management Accountants; treasurer of an investment club; past president and now VP for Programs of the Albuquerque Association of Educational Retirees.

Kay Carrico, the secretary of ASCF, learned about

the organization on the Internet while searching for international groups in Albuquerque. Kay, who recently moved here from Michigan where she worked in international business, wanted to learn about international business opportunities & SCI was one of the first places she looked. Receiving her Master's Degree at the Universidad de Salamanca in Spain, started her love affair with different cultures and peoples. Since then she has had ample opportunity to meet new friends from all over the world through Sister Cities. In October she took her first Sister Cities trip - to Guadalajara. Kay's company, In-Compass International, provides international trade show participation, global distribution and AES documentation for the food industry.



Maja Whittington

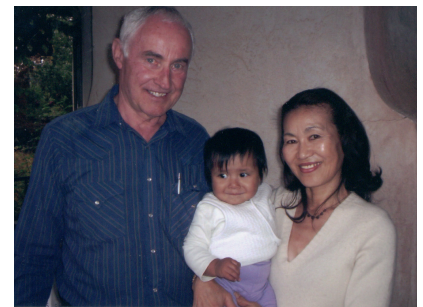


Kay Carrico

## It's A Girl!

Congratulations to Wolfram and Nobuko Krank. on Saturday August 23, 2005, they officially adopted a girl in Guatemala City. Little Sara had been living with a foster family until the Kranks became her parents. She is a Halloween baby - turning one year old this October 31st. She is just starting to walk and her bubbly personality

charms all. Any female who talks with Sara will note that she likes jewelry. At the Helmstedt farewell party, she especially enjoyed the mariachi band.



Wolfram, Sara and Nobuko

Kindness is one thing you can't give away, it always comes back.



# Friendship Visit to Guadalajara

October 19-24, 2005 a contingent from Albuquerque, including fourteen sister city members and representatives from the City of Albuquerque, traveled to Guadalajara, Mexico. This was a courtesy visit prior to a more extensive trip planned for March 2006. With the delegation was a noted guitarist, Gustavo Pimentel. He played at the welcoming reception in Guadalajara. The group brought with them some prints of paintings donated by students of the New Mexico Art League in Albuquerque. These were presented to the city of Guadalajara.

October is fiesta month in Guadalajara. There were lots of activities including a dance competition comprised of regional dancers from around the state. Every night, across the street from the Hotel De Mendoza, in the plaza, there was a variety of regional music and dancers. The

delegation was treated to some excellent food at the El Gordo restaurant and the Cafe Tequila. Other nights, members of the group went dancing. The trip was topped off with a train ride on the "Tequila Express" where passengers rode to Heradura Hacienda to see how tequila was made, had a feast, and, of course, sampled tequila. Julia Stone, Dave Bagley and Alberto Solis visited Colegio Del Sagrado Corazon - a school that covers kindergarten through high school. Colegio Del Sagrado Corazon would like to partner with a school in Albuquerque. The group also visited the Alberque Infantil Los Pinos, A.C., an orphanage for boys having had abused home lives. The orphanage asked for assistance in raising funds to purchase land to expand their facility to include older children through age 18.

Fred Mondragon and Alberto Solis from Mayor Chavez's office were in Guadalajara to promote economic development between Albuquerque and Guadalajara and to plan for the follow-up meeting in March 2006. They and John Salazar, Julia Stone and Dave Bagley met with the City of Guadalajara. One of the main topics was the need to have a direct flight between Albuquerque and Guadalajara. Whether involved in cultural, business or altruistic events, the group thoroughly enjoyed the time spent in Guadalajara and look forward to their return in March. Many thanks to Julia Stone, the Guadalajara chair, for making the arrangements for the successful October visit.

## STUDENT PICTURES

The pictures, representing the "flavor" of New Mexico are: "Adobe Church and Silver Star" by Rachel Bossert age 9; "Sunflower, Rose and Chili" by Grace Fierro age 10; "Artist's Materials" by Anna Roche age 8; "Roadrunner, Kokopelli and Route 66" by Mandy Pellegrino age 10; "Arabian Horse" by Candice Keener age 10; "Animals of the Southwest Desert" by Ariel Huntress age 10; "Balloon Ride" by Anika Apostalon age 10; "Native America Pottery" by Kendell Kelly age 8; and "Owl, Bear and Basket" by Riley Kelly age 8. (Note: The last two artists are twins!)

The teachers, Carol Allison and Joan Irely teach the classical school of drawing & painting. The students used the transparent water color technique. They first sketched their picture and then using a spotlight to create shadows, they painted gray tones. Finally the transparent water colors were applied. This technique requires that any white the artist wishes in the final picture must remain an unpainted surface.

## NM Art Goes to Guadalajara

Nine students from the New Mexico Art League have their work hanging in the city hall in Guadalajara. Albuquerque Sister Cities presented their sister Guadalajara, Mexico with the art during their October trip there. Pauline Garcia, a member of the Guadalajara committee worked with the New Mexico Art League to obtain the art.

November 4, 2005 the New Mexico Art league

hosted a reception at their gallery at 3704 Juan Tabo NE where the students were honored. Julia Stone, chair of the Albuquerque Sister Cities Guadalajara Committee, presented each of the young artists with certificates and gifts. All students of the program received presents for their hard work. As proud parents, students, and special guests strolled the gallery, enjoying the art not only

by the students but other local artists as well; they were seranded by a guitarist. A tasty array of tidbits was also available. This festive occasion appealed to many senses. The original works by the nine students were hanging on the walls. The students kept their own paintings. Prints of their works went to Mexico.



Julia Stone presenting certificates to the nine students at the New Mexico Art League.

*Helmstedt Itinerary*  
 Oct. 16th the 6 member Helmstedt delegation arrived. Wolfram Krank & host families were there to greet them. Next day they toured Albuquerque - Botanical Gardens & the Sandia Peak tram ride. Tues. was Sante Fe - time to do some sightseeing and window shopping. Wed. they headed northwest for Arches National Monument in Utah. They hiked up to the "Delicate Arch" and toured "Dead Horse Park." In Moab, the nearby city, they visited the Moab Brewery and Restaurant, declaring the food & beer very good! Back in town, Sat. was a free day to relax or visit Old Town. Early Sun. am they headed west - this time to the Painted Desert/Petrified Forest and the Grand Canyon. All agreed that sunrise at the canyon was magnificent. Back home & another trip - going south to Alamogordo. Folks from Las Cruces Sister Cities met them for lunch. Las Cruces is twinned with Nienburg. White Sands & the Space Museum were on the agenda. Over the mountains to Carlsbad

## The Helmstedt Delegation

Six Helmstedt, Germany citizens traveled to Albuquerque, their sister city in October 2005. There was Karin, the chair of the Helmstedt sister city program. She is a high school teacher of English, geography and economy. Speaking in flawless English, Karin explained that she has traveled to the USA many times - not only to the southwest but also the east and west coasts. She is a licensed hot air balloonist in Germany and so she particularly enjoyed her balloon ride in Albuquerque where she had the opportunity to assist in piloting it. Sybil, an attorney, was on her third trip to the US. She especially liked Arches National Monument. Christina was also a third time US visitor. On this occasion her son, Jens accompanied her.

Jens, who works at the Volkswagen factory, really liked the Mexican food. In fact, all six participants found Mexican food quite tasty. Although they didn't get any pizza, it was OK as pizza is readily available in Germany but Mexican fare is not. Hans, a railway engineer, was a first timer to the US. It was the "difficult" landscape that amazed him. Sunrise at the Grand Canyon was his favorite spot. Phillip, a student at the Helmstedt Gymnasium (high school) was the sixth member of the group. He stated that food cooked by his Albuquerque "mama" was the best! Although Arches National Park seemed to be the overall favored site they visited, other places received rave reviews - the

Grand Canyon, White Sands National Park and the hot air balloon ride. They found the Americans very friendly and invited Albuquerque sister city folks to come visit Helmstedt.



Lto R: Hans, Christina, Jens, Sybil, Karin, Phillip, and Wolfram Krank

## Helmstedt Farewell Party

Carl and Donna Londene hosted a farewell party for the visiting Helmstedt delegation on October 28, 2005. The guests enjoyed a sumptuous buffet with foods ranging from American potato salad to German kuchen-compliments of Johanna Baumgartner. Dave Bagley presented the members of the delegation with festive gift bags and a balloon calendar. Albuquerque Sister Cities also gave them a large Indian sand painting which is to be given to the mayor of Helmstedt. The delegation pro-

fusely thanked Wolfram Krank for taking care of them on their travels around the southwest and gave him two bottles of his favorite wine. All attendees enjoyed the friendly comradery and the mariachi band. Some folks even danced to the music!

A mariachi band performs at the farewell party.



Dona Lundene welcomes Helmstedt guests to the buffet.





## Visitors from Ashgabat



L to R: Reimbay Rehmbayev, Shasenem Jorayeve, Mayor Chavez, and Tatyana Rotaru



Shasenem presents Dave Bagley with a beaded hat and a decorated spoon.

Monday November 21, 2005 three folks from Ashgabat, Turkmenistan met with Albuquerque Sister City members. These visitors were invited to the United States under the auspices of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. The par-

ticipants, Ms. Shasenem Jorayeve, Mr. Reimbay Rehmbayev and Ms. Tatyana Rotaru are grassroots/community leaders with a focus on family, youth and environment. Working with students, teachers, and concerned citizens, they have been or still are in teaching positions and/or scientific work. Ms. Jorayeve is the leader of "Family is a Fortress," a group of local teachers who devote their time to work with disadvantaged and at-risk children, aged 5-14. Mr. Rehmbayev is the leader of the Intellectual's Club, Ikar, which organizes various brainstorming games and hands-on activities for youth at local schools. The club enjoys the recognition of local authorities and collaborates with the Youth Union of Turkmenistan, which sponsors the Club's summer camp activities. He is also interested in starting a Boy Scout movement in Ashgabat. Ms. Rotaru is an active grassroots leader who organizes ecological projects and public awareness campaigns for youth, teachers, and citizens interested in environmental issues.

The Ashgabat trio landed in Washington DC and after a few days traveled to Raleigh, NC. They arrived in Albuquerque on Nov. 17th.

Their first day in NM was a "free day." Friday they worked with the local 4H, Barelas Community Center and ENLACE. In the afternoon, they visited the Rio Grande Nature Preserve. Saturday they toured Santa Fe. Monday am they went to Acoma. At 1:15 that day the Albuquerque Sister Cities had their time with the visitors. The group met with Mayor Chavez. He warmly welcomed them and spoke with them concerning Albuquerque's efforts in preserving open spaces among the growing urbanization.

Next stop was the New Mexico School of Music, Tatiana Vetrinskaya, director. The NM School of Music offers high quality instruction in piano, voice, strings and all wind instruments. They offer a variety of musical styles including classical, jazz and traditional Mexican guitar. Ms. Vetrinskaya came from Ashgabat. She originally came in 1994 for a 2 week visit, staying with Sally-Alice Thompson. Tatiana fell in love with the area and enrolled at UNM where she received her second Masters Degree. While light refreshments were enjoyed, the group chatted away in their native language. A student pianist played for the guests; a fitting culmination for their pleasant visit.

After some quick shopping in Old Town, the group traveled to Sandia Peak where they rode the tram to the top. The view of Albuquerque at sunset is always breathtaking. Dinner was at Monroe's. Here, over traditional New Mexican fare, the group was able to relax and share ideas. President Dave Bagley presented the three with gifts and he in turn received a fancy beaded hat and spoon. Although all too brief, it was a wonderful visit with our special guests. Thank you Sally-Alice, Betty-Mae and Richard for making the arrangements.

## Alburquerque, Spain

Ramon & Margaret Gonzales traveled to the Iberian peninsula in Oct. They flew to Lisbon, Portugal & then drove 180 km to Badajoz, Spain. There they attended the wedding of Monica Monroy, a former resident of Albuquerque, NM. Monica taught bilingual education as part of a teaching program between the Albuquerque Public School System and the Spanish government. During her time in NM, the Gonzales' took her "under their wings."

rom Badajoz, they drove to Albuquerque. Besides visiting with old friends, they also lunched with Mayor Vadillo and most of the group that had visited Albuquerque, NM last year. The mayor indicated that he is planning to lead a delegation to attend the 300th celebration in July.

One of the upcoming visitors, Bartolome Gill Santa Cruz, will bring & aand

donate a rare book of art & poems. The poetry is by Federico Garica Lorca, a noted Spanish poet who resided in NY City 1929-1930. His verse reflects his view of life in NYC during that time. Several Spanish artists have created paintings visualizing the poems. The book containing both the poems & the paintings, was published by Eduardo Naranjo of Badajoz. Bartolome took the Gonzales' to a restored 12th C. monastery, now an exclusive hotel.

*State Meeting*

*Mark your calendars NOW for Saturday February 18, 2006. This will be the New Mexico State Sister Cities Meeting. State Coordinator, Margaret DiKe, is coordinating the event. Besides Albuquerque, she plans on inviting Las Cruces, Santa Fe, and Los Alamos as well as other cities in New Mexico that do not currently have a sister city. Several workshops are tentatively being planned. They will cover such topics as economic development and youth cultural exchanges.*

*SCI Annual Conference - July 2006 - Washington DC details available on their website at: [www.sister-cities.org](http://www.sister-cities.org)*

*Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation website: [www.albuquerque-sister-cities.org](http://www.albuquerque-sister-cities.org)*

## *Children of Otachique, Mexico*

By Dave Bagley

Otachique is a small village in Copper Canyon, located 170 miles west of Chihuahua, Mexico in Basaseachi National Park. While Copper Canyon is now becoming a popular tourist destination, most travelers see it from the top, much like visitors to our Grand Canyon. Alma Solis, Sister Cities chair for Chihuahua, provided a unique opportunity to visit Otachique and meet some of the folks who live in this remote village at the end of 23 miles of a primitive dirt road.

Alma and I joined a group of 28 hot air balloon crews who traveled from Albuquerque to Chihuahua for their first Fiesta del Globo (Festival of the Balloon), November 11-13. After the rally, six of the balloonists joined us to learn something about the culture of the indigent people who live in Otachique. We were greeted by Felipe and Elvira, who manage the cabanas we called home for a few days. Our accommodations were clean log cabins, outfitted with kerosene lanterns for slight and potbelly stoves for heat. (There was no electricity, or phone, gas stations or even a newspaper.) Communications with the outside world is handled by a CB radio powered by a car battery.

The following morning, after a good breakfast of scrambled eggs, beans, tortilla, coffee and tea, Felipe took us in his truck to go sightseeing. We drove to a spectacular overlook of the San Juan Valley, a dizzying

view down into the valley where our cabins were located, and a very private place of worship, where the people of the valley come together once a year to celebrate their harvest. We then went to visit the local elementary school, which is why Alma and I were there in the first place - to donate winter coats and gloves to the children of Otachique. Alma had collected suitcases full of coats and gloves for the children and their parents. We asked for help from the ballooncrews to transport them to Chihuahua and Dick Rice took the whole load down in his trailer. The children attend elementary school in two one-room buildings - one for grades 1-3 and the other for grades 4-6. After meeting their teachers, the kids assembled out on the basketball court and Alma handed jackets, coats, gloves and a shoulder bag to each child. We also brought a supply of candy, ensuring that every young-

ster had plenty. Craig and Jane Kennedy brought their five year old grandson, Xavier along and he was delighted to help us give out the candy. Wayne and Mira Shelton helped distribute supplies and take photos. The large coats left over were given to adults who needed them.

We were all deeply moved by our experience. Our "normal" is luxury in Mexico. These proud people can use our help to make their lives a little better. We saw classrooms needing more books & supplies; children needing shoes; a basketball court needing equipment; a schoolyard needing swings and a jungle gym. I could go on, but you get the idea. We plan to go with another balloon crew to Chihuahua in 2006. Want to come along?

## *Japanese Fall Festival*

September 25, 2005 from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm was the Aki Matsuri (Japanese Fall Festival) at Park Square in front of the Japanese Kitchen restaurant. Participants watched Japanese/Okinawan dancers; Ikebana flower arranging; Japanese martial arts; and Taiko drummers. They sampled Japanese food and viewed

Japanese arts and crafts. The Sasebo committee and youth delegates sponsored a display booth showcasing the Albuquerque students' 2003 trip to Japan and the Sasebo student's 2005 trip to Albuquerque. The booth attendees shared their experiences with the community and promoted Albuquerque Sister Cities.

## NM Chinese Celebration

On Wednesday, October 12, 2005, President Dave Bagley and seven ASCF Board Members (Margaret Dike, Betty-Mae Hartman, Kazumi Kawakubo, Tuty Quinton, Pamela Feather, Maja Whittington, and Sidney Yen) attended the National Day Celebration of the Republic of China in Taiwan. The event was sponsored by the New Mexico Chinese Association of which Sidney Yen is the president. More than 120 people were in attendance. Dr. Wu-Lien Wei, Director General of the Taipei Eco-

nomie and Cultural Office in Los Angeles traveled to Albuquerque to host the event. Dignitaries present included David Cargo, former Governor of New Mexico; Patricia Madrid, Attorney General of New Mexico; Fred Mondragon, Director of Economic Development Office, City of Albuquerque; and Lanny Messersmith, Honorary German Consul. The ceremony commenced at 6:15 pm with the singing of the national anthems of the United States of America and the Republic of China. A welcome speech by Dr.

Wu-Lien Wei followed. Next came congratulatory remarks from the dignitaries and the reading of proclamations from Governor Bill Richardson and Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez. Entertainment was provided by the Albuquerque Chinese Chorus who sang seven Chinese folk songs. The evening culminated in a reception for the guests.

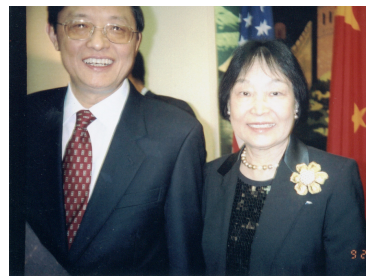
## Elena Lu Travels to Washington DC

As a member of the National Board of Directors for Sister Cities International, Elena Lu received an invitation to celebrate the people's Republic of China's National Day in Washington D.C. at the Chinese Embassy. Mr. Zhou Wenzhong, the new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the United States of America, was the host. He is an old acquaintance of Elena Lu's. In April 1994, when he was Consul-General in Los Angeles, he and his wife visited Albuquerque and Santa Fe. Both of them liked the Land of Enchantment. In the Chinese Embassy's Great Hall, more than 500 guests attended the gala event. Most were foreign

dignitaries, dressed in formal attire including full military uniforms. Among the attendees were Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and Senator Diane Feinstein (CA). Senator Feinstein, the first woman mayor of San Francisco was part of a 40 member trade delegation to Shanghai, China in November 2005. Shanghai and San Francisco have been sister cities for 25 years.

After Ambassador Zhou's gracious welcoming speech, the feast began. There were many delicious dishes and glasses were kept filled! Elena was very happy to see quite a few of her old friends including Mrs. Zhou Wenzhong and make many more new ones. She felt special to be

included in this grand occasion.



Ambassador Zhou Wenzhong and Elena Lu



Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and Elena Lu

### *What's A Traveler To Do?*

*In Mexico, you should always inquire about one's wife and family. In Saudia Arabia, you should never inquire about a wife.*

*In Japan, small gifts are almost obligatory in business situations. In China, gifts are prohibited for individuals in business situations. In Latin America, people are usually late. In Sweden, you must be prompt to the second.*

*In America, "tabling" something means postponing it. In England, "tabling" means discussing it now. In America, the most important items receive attention first. In Ethiopia, high priority items are postponed.*

-----  
*Friendship is the only cement that will ever hold the world together.*



*April in Chicago*

*April 28 & 29, 2006 is the date for the Illinois State Sister Cities Convention. It will be held in Springfield, IL - not only the state capital but also the center of Abraham Lincoln historical sites and museum. The convention begins on Fri. afternoon. That night there is a supper and entertainment. Sat., after breakfast, there are workshops, etc. Lunch has a keynote speaker. The afternoon is free for sightseeing. And all of this costs about \$50!!! Saturday night dinner is optional. The hotel being reserved for the conference attendees will cost about \$80 per night. Vic & Carol Dawley will be attending. Anyone wishing to participate, should contact Carol. She will try & arrange home stays in the Chicago suburbs for those wishing to tour the "windy city" after the convention.*

*Free At Last!*

By Wolfram Krank

Helmstedt, sister city to Albuquerque, NM is situated on the autobahn between Hannover and Berlin. A small city of 28,000 inhabitants, it is located on the former border dividing East and West Germany. Helmstedt played a vital role in keeping the land corridor open to all traffic from West to East and back again. Military garrisons from the USA, Great Britain, France and West Germany stationed in Helmstedt assured the security and safety on the autobahn - 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It was the close friendship between the commander of the American garrison and the Mayor of Helmstedt which led to the sister city affiliation with Albuquerque. When the twinning of the two cities was formalized on May 29, 1983, the border was solidly fortified, living up to its name, "The Iron Curtain."

Sister Cities exchanges happen almost on an annual basis. Numerous cultural exchanges have occurred. A church choir from Albuquerque, 76 members strong, went to Helmstedt on a concert tour. The choir performed in several cities including Berlin, Braunschweig, Koenigsutter, and of course, Helmstedt. In return, the Bach Choir from Helmstedt visited Albuquerque two years later. Their tour included cities in New Mexico - Santa Fe, Taos, Alamogordo, Gallup, and of course, Albuquerque. Recently, a well known classical guitarist from Albuquerque joined the group visiting Helmstedt. While there, he gave several performances. During one of the visits to

Helmstedt, the locals were introduced to New Mexico chili. The large cookout near the city hall was well attended.

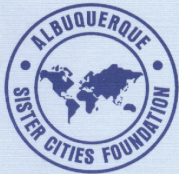
Deep and long lasting friendships have been fostered by the exchange visits, especially since home hospitality is offered. In the 28 years of our affiliation, I was fortunate to be hosted by a number of different families in Helmstedt. All had similar stories to share about relatives living behind "The Iron Curtain." One was separated from his family members by only a few hundred meters. Hans B. lived in the "Sperrzone," a mile wide strip of land along "The Iron Curtain." This zone was literally a state within a state, where everything was under tightest military control, day and night. Only people who fit the profile of the political regime were allowed to live there. All others were forcefully removed to live in the interior of the state. Permission to visit the Zone was very difficult to obtain, due to any possible flight risk. The clock on the church bell tower in the border town remains at 10:21. Intentionally the town's people stopped the clock on November 9, 1989 to com-

memorate the fall of the Berlin Wall and the subsequent opening of the border. When the news of the Berlin Wall collapse reached Hans B., he asked himself, "Is this a dream? Did the Honeker Regime make a mistake?" Hans had looked many times towards the border and saw the houses across the fortified installation of mine fields and barbed wire fences with automatic shrapnel guns mounted on them. The guns were triggered by wires stretched along the entire fence. For 45 years Hans had pondered over the lives of his relatives and other people living in West Germany. When he heard the news over the radio that the Berlin Wall was falling and the borders were opened for everyone, he did not hesitate for a minute. He drove his Trabant (East German car) across the border to his relatives. In a very emotional and tearful reunion, his first words were: "Free at last. Free at last."

*'07 Youth Art Program*

In the spring of 2007, Albuquerque Sister Cities will launch a youth art program. An artist from hopefully each of Albuquerque's eight sister cities would come to New Mexico for about a month. In exchange for the airfare from their city to Albuquerque, they would teach art to the youth of the city. The lessons would be Monday

through Friday. Homestays for the artists would be provided. At the end of the month, an art show displaying the youth's talents, would be held. The board is working on finalizing the details. Anyone wishing to participate in this program, should contact Dave Bagley.



P.O. Box 26693  
Albuquerque, NM 87125  
(505) 768-3000

DECEMBER 2005

Mailing  
Address  
Goes  
Here

#### ALBUQUERQUE SISTER CITIES FOUNDATION

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

#### Annual Dues

Membership is: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

P.O. Box 26693  
Albuquerque, NM 87125



THE ALBUQUERQUE

**sister  
cities**

FOUNDATION, INC.

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL ADULT                      | \$20.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AMBASSADOR (AGE 21-35)                | \$20.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY                                | \$30.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL YOUTH (AGE 13-20)          | \$ 7.50  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR CITIZEN (65 OR OLDER)          | \$10.00  |
| <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 |

*Select Area of Interest on Other Side...*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail/Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Check out the Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation Web Site:

[www.albuquerque-sister-cities.org](http://www.albuquerque-sister-cities.org)