

Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

Fall 2009

2009-2010

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Cake at Welcoming Reception.

Turkmen Visit Albuquerque

The Albuquerque/Ashgabat Sister Cities Committee was selected for a grant from Open World (Academy for Educational Development). Durdy Khangeldyyevich Atayev, Berdy Dzhumadurdyevich Esenov, Ashirmamed Tekayevich Gayliyev and Murat Amardurdyevich Sariyev arrived in New Mexico on October 3, 2009. The translator for the visit was Artem Artyushkov. They were hosted by Richard and MaryHope Buckler, Oguljan and Nathan Young and Alana McGrattan. On Sunday, October 4th the visitors went to the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. It was the first time the Turkmen saw hot air balloons and were wowed by the mass ascension. Berdy said he would like to go up in a balloon on his next visit. Sunday night there was a welcome reception dinner at Serafian's Carpets. ASCF members and Albuquerque/Ashgabat Committee members had the opportunity to interact with the foursome. Murat has a degree in English and American Studies. He works for a water engineering company in Turkmenistan, focusing on water purification and recovering spilled oil. He translated for the other three guests. Berdy works on projects involved with dam-building and agricul-

ture. He works for the Institute of Water Design at the water management facilities. On the day that the group arrived, his third child, a daughter, was born! Ashir, a chief engineer at the Turkmenistan Ministry of Water, works on water controls and construction of drainage systems. He played the dutar (2-stringed Turkmenistan folk instrument) for those present. It is played by strumming the strings with one hand (using your nails) while the other hand tightens the strings to create different notes. Durdy's work is related to rivers on the border with Iran. He is interested in water-sharing between countries, international agreements and water conservation.

During the week, the group met with many people involved with water management and conservation issues. On Monday they visited Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District and United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources. They also took a field trip to review irrigation equipment and operation.

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Ashir playing the dutar.



Durdy, Joseph Gabel owner of Serafian's Oriental Rugs, and Murat.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep regret that we announce the death on November 9, 2009 of Mary Juvich Bentz, the mother of ASCF Treasurer, Mark Bentz.

From the President's Desk ...

The setting was an historic town hall meeting in Shanghai, China. The spokespersons were Han Zheng, Mayor of Shanghai, and President Obama. The message - the value of more than 200 friendship cities between the USA and China. All of this was reported by the international press. Perhaps you've already heard that Mayor Zheng extolled his trips to Shanghai's sister city of Chicago, President Obama's hometown. Upon hearing about such trips, the President declared it wonderful to have these exchanges between cities.

What is it that so impressed these world leaders? Is it the chance to develop and grow economic development between two cities, and thus two countries? Or is it the exchange of ideas in technology, education and social infrastructure? One area of emphasis for President Obama has been to get buy-in world-wide on the need for countries to adopt green initiatives. Chicago and Shanghai have been involved in such consul-

tation in an effort to help one another.

But what forms the foundation for all lasting international political and economic advancement? I believe it is the celebration of cultural diversity. Sister City exchanges provide the environment in which cross-cultural appreciation and trust can grow one person, one city at a time. As President Obama reiterated, it's a terrific opportunity to learn from each other. Here in Albuquerque, we continue to try to capitalize on such opportunities with our sister cities. This past month, members from your organization visited in person the cities of Ashgabat, Helmstedt, and Chihuahua. In addition, in October the Ashgabat committee hosted a group of water engineers from Turkmenistan. In the last two months, our Chihuahua Chair was able to attend various events in that sister city - tercentennial celebration, sister city balloon rally, and Chihuahua's first Mexican sister cities conference. And now with two new mayors elected in Albuquerque and Rehovot, re-

spectively, plans will go forward to continue to strengthen the year-old twinning relationship. The bridges of trust continue to grow stronger, giving us the opportunity to learn from others while showing that we care.

Let the celebration of culture continue as our Lanzhou and Hualien committees invite all of you to a special time of food, fun, and entertainment on the eve of the upcoming Chinese New Year. Join us for lunch at Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center on February 13. Stay tuned for other exchange opportunities planned for 2010, and Albuquerque's privilege of hosting the Sister Cities International Conference July 29 -31. In case you want to know more about this conference, come to an informational meeting February 17 from 5:15 - 6:15 pm on the 14th floor of the Compass Bank Building at 505 Marquette NW.

The famous Taoist Chinese philosopher, Chung Tsu (369 /268 B.C.) once said: "I dreamed I was a butterfly, flitting around in the sky; then I awoke. Now I wonder: Am I a man who dreamt of being a butterfly, or am I a butterfly dreaming I am a man."

To that we can say: Let us continue to dream about peace, for one day, no matter how seemingly elusive, we will wake up and find out that it is no longer a dream, but a reality. Thank you for doing your part for the cause of world peace.



Richard Buckler, President

Davis Begay - Honorary Consul of Japan

At a reception in June 2009, it was formally announced that Davis Begay is the Honorary Consul of Japan in New Mexico. Mr. Begay has been involved with the Japanese community here in Albuquerque for over 14 years. Awhile ago the Los Angeles Consul General asked him to be a liaison to the Japanese in New Mexico. When the Denver Consul General position was created, Mr.

Begay again acted as a liaison, this time under Denver's auspices. And now, New Mexico has its own Honorary Consul General. Mr. Begay said his primary duty is to assist and help Japanese nationals in New Mexico. He works with visiting Japanese government officials, educators, students and travelers; he assists with personal and business emergencies; he works with local

businesses going to Japan and aids in UNM exchange programs. Both Davis and his wife, Ikuko, are involved with Albuquerque Sister Cities. They were members of the planning committee for our sister cities visiting us during Albuquerque's 300th celebration. Ikuko was the Chair of the Sasebo committee for 12-13 years. Davis considers them as a two-person team. When asked if he speaks Japanese, he replied, "Just enough to get me into trouble." Mr. Begay works at Sandia National Lab and as a hobby teaches Kendo (Japanese sword-fencing). For more information on Mr. Begay and his new role as Honorary Consul General, please visit the website: www.jpnconsulalbuq.com

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ASCF Celebrates Mexico Independence

On Friday, September 18, 2009 the ASCF Chihuahua and Guadalajara Committees organized an event to celebrate Mexico Independence. It was held at the Manzano Mesa Multi-generational Center. A yummy buffet of marinated steak, chips and salsa, rice, beans, cake & ice cream was followed by entertainment provided by a delightful mariachi band. All attendees enjoyed the pleasant evening.



Enjoying the meal are Bob Montoya, Chair of Guadalajara Committee; Delores Montoya; and Kathy and David Hsi



Alma Solis, Chair of Chihuahua committee (center) welcomes Karen and Mark Bentz and Mary Hope Buckler, while David Buckler oversees the Youth bake sale.

Also savoring the food are Mr. & Mrs. Efrén Navarro and Julia and Gary Stone

Official Opening of Japanese Gardens at Biopark

Mayor Chavez & Japanese garden designers

September 18, 2009 saw the dedication of the opening of the Ogata Kai space within the Sasebo Japanese Garden at the Albuquerque Biological Park. A group of highly experienced landscape architects from Japan, called Ogata Kai, created the new garden space in just a few short days. Japan held a national competition to select the 6 gardeners who came. The group's leader was the Master Teacher of the architect, Toru Tanaka, who designed the Sasebo Garden.



View of the Ogata Kai "garden within a garden."

CONT. Turkmen Visit

On Tuesday the group met with area politicians to discuss legislative policies - Matt Zidovsky, Congressional Issues Specialist at the Office of the U.S. Rep Martin Heinrich; Patricia Dominguez, Policy Staff Assistant at the Office of Senator Jeff Bingaman; Sarah Cobb, Policy Staff Assistant at the Office of Senator Tom Udall; and Mark Sanchez, Director at the City/County Water Authority.

All day Wednesday was spent on a tour of the Rio Grande River, Sevilleta & Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. Paul Tashjian, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Ecological Services accompanied the foursome. Peter Mitchell and Chris Chavez of Albuquerque Mayor's Office discussed water management issues with the group on Thursday morning. That afternoon they visited a local cattle ranch of Alana McGrattan and discussed agricultural water rights and private use and then met with John Kelly of the Albuquerque Metro Arroyo and Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA). That evening they enjoyed a balloon fiesta "night glow."

Emily Myer, Refugium Aquarist,

conducted a tour of the Albuquerque Biopark and Aquarium on Friday. Lunch was at the Shark's Reef Cafe at the Aquarium. That afternoon the group visited MIOX, a facility of a private company involved in water purification and treatment.

On Saturday there was a tour of Santa Fe with a reception/dinner at the home of Bill and Amelia Myer. This farewell gathering was a combination barbecue and potluck. The guests were particularly interested in the swamp cooler at the Myer's house. Entertainment for the evening was Native American singing. Ralph Zatigh, a Kowa from Oklahoma, was the leader. He was joined by Ed Pacheco from Isleta Pueblo; Darren Vicenti (an Apache); Nevin Yepa (Jemas Pueblo); and Mitch Yepa, Nevin's son. Mitch, a warrior dancer, performed as well. He wore traditional clothing and an otter skin hat. He said that the otter skin is more valuable than mink since an otter is much harder to catch than a mink. Before performing, Ralph explained that the

"songs" didn't use words but vocables (special sounds that are not specific words.) Gifts were presented - Emily Myer gave them a stingray plate and some shark teeth (2 each of the 4 kinds of sharks at the aquarium). The Myers presented each with a gemstone globe. Oguljan Young on behalf of ASCF gifted them with digital picture frames and candies from Sees. Early Monday morning the Turkmen bid farewell to Albuquerque and headed back home.



Sally-Alice Thompson, 1st Chair of Ashgabat committee and Ralph Zatigh. They traveled to Turkmenistan many years ago with ASCF.



Visiting Turkmen standing - Native Americans are seated with Mitch Yepa in center.

Computer Update

ASCF members and others donated computers which were given to a high school in San Lorenzo, Chihuahua, Mexico. The school in San Lorenzo has a faculty of three: the director and teacher of chemistry and English, his wife who teaches math and physics, and another who teaches history and humanities. The results of our

efforts began to be evident by the spring of 2009 at the San Lorenzo High School graduation. Of the six graduates, three would be going on to college for computer science. One of them had also received a scholarship. San Lorenzo High School's computer center is furnished with 14 computers, all in good working order. The enrollment for the first year class has increased to 19 members. Moreover, there is an

adult night class where 20 villagers are learning how to use computers. And in San Juanito, Chihuahua, six computers were given to a junior high school. The work goes on as 5 more are on their way south of the border. Thank you all for making a difference. Anyone wishing to donate a used computer to this worthy cause, please contact Vic Dawley at 883-5916. Note: A spring trip to San Lorenzo and San Juanito is being planned by the Dawleys. They'll bring computers and return with photos.

Original article appeared in ASCF Fall 2007 newsletter on page 6.

A Visit to Helmstedt

November 9, 2009 was the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall - an event that led to the reunification of Germany. During the years of division, our sister city, Helmstedt, had the largest and most important inner Germany border crossing point called the Helmstedt-Marienborn. Helmstedt was the closest West German city to West Berlin, thus most road traffic was handled at this crossing. This road today is Autobahn 2(A2). Even though the wall in Berlin was opened in the fall of 1989, the Helmstedt-Marienborn border remained functional until June 30, 1990. Today many of the East German buildings have been preserved as a museum and monument.

Albuquerque's Helmstedt Chair, Nathan Young, and his family visited Helmstedt on November 8th. They met with Helmstedt Chair, Karin Cyrol and their Sister Cities President Dr. Birker, discussing past Sister City exchanges and the possibility of a visit by Albuquerque next Fall.

After the Helmstedt visit, Nathan Young and his family returned to Berlin and joined the world in celebrating the fall of the Berlin

Wall. Some of the highlights were: large dominoe pieces placed on the path of the wall between Potsdam Platz and the Brandenburg Gate. They were toppled during the commemoration ceremony. Music was everywhere in the city. The main event featured a concert with music by Wagner, Beethoven, Schoenburg and F. Goldman by the Staatskapelle Berlin conducted by Daniel Barenboim. Tenor Placido Domingo made a surprise appearance and sang "Luft," with the crowd in front of the Brandenburg Gate.

For those who have interest in going to Helmstedt, Germany in the fall of 2010, or simply have interest in Germany and want to help in creating Helmstedt Sister Cities activities, please contact Chair Nathan Young at 977-6033 or email:

nathaneyoung@gmail.com



Helmstedt Chair Karin Cyrol and ASCF Chair Nathan Young



Dominoes placed where the Berlin Wall once was located. They were toppled during the ceremony commemorating the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Upcoming Events

January 20, 2010 - ASCF Board Meeting
Compass Bank - 505 Marquette NW -
14th floor - 5:15 pm - All welcome

February 13, 2010 - Chinese New Year's
Event - Manzano Mesa Multigenerational
Center - 501 Elizabeth SE - 11am - 2:30 pm

February 17, 2010 - Informational planning
meeting for the July SCI conference - Com-
pass Bank - 505 Marquette NW - 14th floor
5:15pm - 6:15 pm - All welcome

May 2010 - ASCF trip to Chihuahua, Mex-
ico. If interested contact Alma Solis at
804-5471

July 29-31, 2010 - SCI Adult Conference.
July 27-31, 2010 - SCI Youth Conference.

Fall 2010 - ASCF trip to Helmstedt, Ger-
many and Albuquerque, Spain.

If interested, contact Nathan Young at 977-6033 / nathaneyoung@gmail.com OR Ramon Gonzales at 873-0840 / rdgonzales36@comcast.net

Fall 2010 - ASCF trip to Sasebo, Japan. If interested contact Kazumi Kawakubo at 994-4692 / kazumikawakubo@gmail.com

ASCF Business Members


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CHINESE NEW YEAR'S EVENT

WHAT: A Chinese New Year's Event sponsored by Hualien, Taiwan and Lanzhou, China Committees

WHEN: Saturday, February 13, 2010 — 11 AM - 2:30 PM

WHERE: Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center - 501 Elizabeth SE
(near I-40 off Eubank and Southern)

ACTIVITIES: Lunch catered by Ho Lo Ma Chinese Restaurant
Entertainment - costume dances, choral singing, pictures of Shanghai World Expo and a brief presentation of Chinese Lunar Calendar and zodiac

COST: \$8.00 for ASCF members and \$12.00 for non-members

RESERVATIONS: Prepaid reservations are necessary

Send check (payable to ASCF) to:

Yu-Lin Shen - 6700 Tesoro Place, NE - Albuquerque, NM 87113 OR

David Hsi - 2504 Griegos Place, NW - Albuquerque, NM 87107

INFORMATIONAL PLANNING MEETING for SCI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE JULY 29 - 31, 2010

What: An Informational Planning Meeting for the July 2010 SCI International Conference being held in Albuquerque

When: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 — 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM

Where: Compass Bank Building - 505 Marquette NW - 14th floor

ALL WELCOME - No reservations needed, just come!

ASCF members Visit Turkmenistan

From October 22-31, 2009, ASCF members traveled to Ashgabat, Turkmenistan at the invitation of its Mayor. They participated in celebrating Turkmenistan's 18th Anniversary of its Independence - parades and ceremonies. The group attended official dinners and receptions. At the invitation of Turkmenistan's President, they dined with the Vice President, Rasid Meredov. They also met with Ashgabat's Mayor Azat Bilishov and discussed future Albuquerque and Ashgabat exchange opportunities. An invitation was extended to Ashgabat to send representatives to the SCI International Conference being held in Albuquerque July 2010. The group stayed with host families and also ate at the homes of the Turkmen water managers who had visited Albuquerque a few weeks previously. One of the ASCF members, Alana McGrattan, is working on developing a Sister Libraries program.



Under the Portrait of Turkmenistan's President is: Bill Myer, Jim Genesci, Altin, Sally-Alice Thompson, Mellie Myer, Pat White, Oguljan and Nathan Young



Enjoying the Independence Day Parade are: above -Oguljan Young, Sally-Alice Thompson, Pat White and Altin. Below - Altin, Alana McGrattan, and Bill Myer.



Turkmenistan's Vice President, Rasid Meredov greets Bill Myer, ASCF Chair of Ashgabat Committee.



Famous Akhalteke horses of Turkmenistan





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In This Issue...

TURKMENISTAN - 4 visitors here - ASCF goes there

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Membership Application

☐ New ☐ Renewal

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