

Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

Fall 2010

2010-2011

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ASCF Visits Helmstedt

by Nathan Young

A delegation of seven led by Chair Nathan Young, traveled to Helmstedt, ASCF's German sister city for the week of September 18 to 26. Joining Nathan were President Richard Buckler, Mary Fernandez, Ray Heidfeld, Susan Osborn, Mary Whittaker and Karen Bate. It was the first time for the latter four.

The group had a very warm reception with Mayor Eisermann, Albuquerque Chair Karin Cyrol and other prominent city members. The Albuquerque delegation presented Mayor Eisermann with a letter from Albuquerque Mayor Berry and a New Mexico flag signed by the Mayor. Albuquerque Sister Cities also presented a sand painting clock to the Mayor, while the Londene family donated a

piece of native pottery to Helmstedt. The Londones have a long history with Helmstedt and have hosted Mayor Eisermann on numerous occasions in the past.

Richard Buckler met with Helmstedt's Economic Development Director and Nathan discussed and developed a three-year plan with his counterpart, Karin Cyrol. It was determined that we need to be more active as our last trip to Helmstedt was in 2007.

Albuquerque plans on sending youth to Helmstedt to a camp for a week during July 2011. Helmstedt will send a delegation to Albuquerque shortly thereafter. Albuquerque hopes to return to Helmstedt in the fall of 2012 with Helmstedt coming back to Albuquerque to celebrate the 30th anniversary of our relationship in 2013.

Along with getting to better know Helmstedt, its citizens and its surroundings, the group also toured Heidelberg and Munich.

Nathan thanks everyone who went for making it a very productive and memorable visit.

Turkmen Teachers Visit Albuquerque

Teachers, Yelena Kotova and Serder Shirov, from Turkmenistan were in Albuquerque for 14 days on a grant written by Valerie Sartor from UNM. They were here to be trained in TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language). They received 30 hours of training and classroom observation and enjoyed some sightseeing as well as interacting with their ASCF hosts and ASCF in general.

Yelena, hosted by Oguljan and Nathan Young is a trainer, teaching adult students. Of the sightseeing, she especially enjoyed the tramway up Sandia and the trip to Santa Fe. Serdar, hosted by Hakim and Fay is computer science and English teacher. He also mentioned the tramway and Santa Fe as touring highlights.

On October 14, Richard and Mary Hope Buckler hosted a final reception for the two visitors. While all enjoyed a sumptuous buffet, attendees took turns exchanging gifts and giving speeches. Sally Alice Thompson, the founder of the Ashgabat relationship, presented each teacher with a copy of the book she wrote and a dreamcatcher.

Cont, on page 3.



L to R: ASCF President, Richard Buckler, Helmstedt Mayor Eisermann, and Nathan Young

From the President's Desk...

Autumn is a time for change and it seems that change has surely been on the minds of many Americans lately. But, what if anything has been changed in Sister Cities?

First, let's look at what SCI has been busily doing. Multiple programs are continuing: Open World grants, Muslim World partnerships and sustainable development, Africa Global Sister Cities promotion, Africa Urban Poverty Alleviation, youth and education, legislative agendas, humanitarian issues and more. ASCF has involved itself in several of these and will continue to do so when the synergistic benefits fit well with our sister cities programs.

SCI is preparing for an early spring international conference in Arlington, VA (March 3 - 5, 2011). As always, ASCF will be represented and will share their experiences with you in our newsletter. While at the conference our

attendees will have the opportunity to visit with New Mexico's congressional representatives to explain how sister cities is so beneficial to our local community.

ASCF continues to be committed to celebrating the various cultures of our sister cities - still nine in all with hints of possible other friendship cities on the way. Recently ASCF members celebrated our version of Oktoberfest in Helmstedt Chair Nathan Young's backyard. Flags representing the USA, Mexico, European Union, Germany, Bavaria and Helmstedt flew high as we enjoyed the traditional treat of brats and beverages with appropriate background music. My thanks to all who helped Nathan have a successful event including the youth who are planning to go to Germany next summer.

Next year in April, the Ashgabat committee plans to kick off a celebration honoring Turkmenistan's 20th year of indepen-

dence from Russia. ASCF members are invited for fun, food and traditional Turkmen dancing. In October, the committee will lead a trip to Turkmenistan for all interested members. Visit another Land of Enchantment, famous for its Silk Road, carpet-weaving, beautiful desert landscapes, lush city parks and fountains and world-class hospitality. Old meets new in Ashgabat.

Our June meeting will once again feature Chinese cultures represented by our sister cities of Lanzhou and Hualien City. In July, several high schoolers are trekking to Helmstedt. Spots are filling up quickly, so call Nathan if you wish to participate. A delegation from Helmstedt is expected to return with the youth. Future youth exchanges are also being considered for China and Japan. Meanwhile, your board continues to pursue new ways with our City to create traditions that highlight sister cities.

So, stay "tuned in." It would seem that the Greek philosopher Heraclitus, 2500 years ago, was right when he observed: Nothing endures but Change. However, as many of us prepare to celebrate various traditions in the holidays over the next few months, we can remember to "be the change we wish to see in the world." (Mahatma Gandhi).

Happy Holidays!

Richard

Richard Buckler

Know Your ASCF Board: Carl Londene, Treasurer

ASCF's Treasurer is Carl Londene. He retired from his CPA firm, Londene and Jenne, after 21 years. Carl became involved with ASCF through his wife. She joined ASCF in 1983 when Mayor Harry Kinney asked if the Londenes would host some Germans visiting from Lower Saxony (Helmstedt). Carl at that time was President of the Edelweiss am Rio Grande German Club. His wife went on to become Chair of the Helmstedt committee and then, in 1990,

President of ASCF.

The Londenes have three children and eight grandchildren. One daughter lives here in Albuquerque, another daughter lives in Shreveport, and their son abides in Augsburg, Germany. Carl's hobbies consist of oil painting, fishing and folk dancing with the German Club. In the past, he has been involved with Little League, the American Legion (finance officer), and the South Valley Exchange Club (raised funds for scholarships for Rio Grande High School students). We welcome Carl to the ASCF board.



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National Day of the Republic of China Celebration

by Chu J. Jong

On Saturday, October 9, 2010 the New Mexico Chinese Association (NMCA) and Taipei Economic Culture Office (TECO) in Los Angeles hosted a Double Tenth Day celebration party - the 99th National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan) at Evergreen Restaurant. At 6:30 pm, Dr. Chu Jong, President of NMCA, announced the celebration and introduced Charles Liu, Deputy Director General of TECO; Carl Lee, SAC

of FBI; John Garcia, Director of Economic Development Department of Albuquerque; Richard Buckler, President of ASCF; and other VIP's and ASCF officers. The celebration program included: Remarks from VIP's; proclamations from both the Governor of New Mexico and the Mayor of Albuquerque; dinner, live video with Los Angeles; cake cutting and toasting. About 150 people from the local community attended this celebration and the party ended at 8:30 pm.



L to R: Sidney Yen, Chu Jong, Richard Buckler, Charles Liu, Carolyn Chan, Tammy Peter and David Hsi

Lanzhou Delegation Visits Albuquerque

by Chu J. Jong, President NM Chinese Association

A delegation of 6 officials (5 men and 1 woman) paid a visit to Albuquerque on October 17 and 18. The delegation was led by Jiao Wei, Vice President of Lanzhou People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. Arriving late at night, they were welcomed by ASCF President Richard Buckler and Lanzhou Chair David Hsi. The next day they briefly toured Old Town and areas west of Albuquerque. CAO David Campbell hosted a luncheon. Other city officials present were Economic Development Director John Garcia and City Planner, Chris Chavez. Lanzhou Co-Chair Zhu served as interpreter. Afterwards they were invited to the Mayor's Conference Room where they were greeted by Mayor Berry. Here official gifts were exchanged. A quick trip to Coronado Mall for some souvenirs and off to the airport.



Teachers Yelena Kotova and Serdar Shirov from Turkmenistan.

Cont. from page 1 - Turkmen Teachers

Valerie Sartor, accompanied by her supervisor, Tatiana Minot, gave each visitor a certificate of attendance for participating in the course they took. Valerie was in Turkmenistan for the year 2009 on a US State Dept. Fellowship. While teaching there, she met Serdar. Valerie said that she hopes to see more Turkmen teachers come here on a grant. Richard

Buckler, representing ASCF, presented the two with special sand paintings with a prayer written by the artist on the back. A special cake decorated with the Turkmen flag was a sweet ending to the evening. Both teachers said they hoped to see everyone in Ashgabat next year for the 20th Anniversary of Turkmenistan's independence.

Mayor Marcos Quezada of Chihuahua Inaugurated

On October 10, 2010 Alma Solis, ASCF Chair of the Chihuahua Committee, represented Albuquerque at Chihuahua's new mayor inauguration. Mayor Marcos Quezada was very happy that Albuquerque was represented at this special occasion. He is planning a visit to meet officially with Mayor Berry, along with a group of city officials.

Chihuahua has invited an Albuquerque high school band to perform in their New Year's Children's Parade.



Mayor Marcos Quezada

ASCF Youth Trip to Helmstedt

Helmstedt, Germany has invited youth from all of its sister cities to a Student Camp during the middle of July 2011. The students will be living with host families. Anyone who has or knows of a high school student interested in attending this camp, please contact Nathan Young, Helmstedt Chair at 977-6033. We will be encouraging those who are interested to participate in various fund raising events throughout the year.

Hosts needed: late July 2011 for 10 - 15 Helmstedt citizens. Contact Nathan Young at 977-6033

Helmstedt Oktoberfest

On Saturday, October 30, 2010, the Helmstedt committee held an "Oktoberfest" for ASCF members. Nathan Young, the Helmstedt Chair, graciously hosted the event in his backyard. It was festively decorated like a beer garden - tables with umbrellas and German flags hung across the area. Guests started arriving at noon. While they sampled the pretzels and mustard and enjoyed refreshing drinks, including beer and wine, they perused the silent auction. Richard Buckler, ASCF President, grilled the brats to perfection. Sauerkraut, outstanding red cabbage, and homemade (by Mary Fernandez) German potato salad rounded out the fare. Note - the first food to run out was the potato salad

- folks couldn't get enough of it! Dessert, if desired, was homemade goodies. Since this was a fund-raising affair, donations were sought for the treats.

Sherry Berry organized and ran the door prizes. Many thanks to her for adding to the ambience of the occasion.

Monies collected (\$672.72) from the auction, cookie donations and event profit were added to the youth fund. So far, 4 ASCF youth are looking forward to going to Helmstedt, Germany next summer for an international camp.

All attendees enjoyed themselves. We thank everyone who came and/or donated to make the event a success.

THANK YOU

ASCF thanks Bill Myer for serving as Ashgabt, Turmenistan Chair and Mellie Myer as Co-Chair. We welcome Oguljan Young as the new Chair of Ashgabat committee

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011 - ASCF Board Meeting
- Sandia Labs Federal Credit Union - 3707 Juan
Tabo NE - 5:15 - All welcome.

April 2011 - Ashgabat cultural event - details after
the holidays

June 2011 - ASCF Annual meeting

July 2011 - Youth trip to Helmstedt, Germany.
Helmstedt visitors returning with them to Albu-
querque - home hosts needed.

October 2001 - Trip to Ashgabat - contact Oguljan
Young 803-0247 if interested.

HOLIDAY TIPS

by Craig Wilson, USA Today
quoted by Sharon O'Brien, About.com Guide

1. Avoid carrot sticks. Anyone who puts carrots on a holiday buffet knows nothing of the holiday spirit. In fact, if you see carrots, leave immediately. Go next door, where they're serving rum balls.
2. If you come across something really good at a buffet table, like frosted cookies, position yourself near them and don't budge. Have as many as you can before becoming the center of attention.
3. Same for pies. Apple. Pumpkin. Mince-meat. Have a slice of each. Or, if you don't like mincemeat, have two apples and one pumpkin. Always have three. When else can you get to have more than one dessert? Labor Day??
4. Did someone mention fruitcake? Granted. It's loaded with the mandatory celebratory calories, but avoid it all costs. Have some standards.
5. Under no circumstance should you exercise between now and New Year's. You can do that in January when you have nothing else to do. This is the time for long naps, which you'll need after circling the buffet table while carrying a 10-pound plate of food and that vat of eggnog.
6. If you don't feel terrible when you leave the party or get up from the table, you haven't been paying attention. Reread tips; start over, but hurry. January is just around the corner.

Photos of Turkmen Teacher Visit



Enjoying the cake
are Sally Alice
Thompson, past
Chair of Ashga-
bat; Alana Mc-
Grattan, member
of Ashgabat com-
mittee and
Richard Buckler,
ASCF President.

The cake deco-
rated with the
flag of Turk-
menistan. It
says, "See you
in Ashgabat -
ASCF."



ASCF Trip to Germany

Bradenburg
Gate, Berlin,
Germany - L to
R: Mary Whit-
taker, Karen Bate
, Ray Heidfeld,
Mary Fernandez,
Susan Osborn,
and Richard
Buckler
Photographer:
Nathan Young



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Membership Application

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