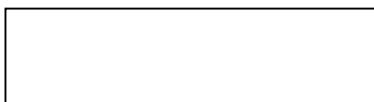




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President	Dave Bagley	771-2428
1 st VP (organization)		
2 nd VP (social)	Tuty Quinton	296-2392
3 rd VP (membership)	Richard Buckler	291-8175
Secretary	Kay Carrico	898-0036
Treasurer	MajaWhittington	271-8944
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Ashgabat, Turkmenistan	Sally-Alice Thompson	268-5073
Chihuahua, Mexico	Alma Solis	203-4463
Guadalajara, Mexico	Julia Stone	296-1676
Helmstedt, Germany	Wolfram Krank	281-2080
Hualien, Taiwan	Sidney Yen	296-7862
Lanzhou, China	Elena Lu	296-6481
Sasebo, Japan	Kazumi Kawakubo	994-4692

From the President's Desk

It saddens me to write that we have lost one of our great friends. J. J. "Mike" Michnovicz died January 21, 2005. Mike was a past-president of Albuquerque Sister Cities, and was well known for his accordion playing of rousing polka tunes. Mike also was an expert photographer, and started his career documenting the then Manhattan Project, now Los Alamos National Laboratory. Mike was known for his appreciation of "the grape" and always had a special bottle of his homemade wine to sample. Mike also volunteered his time at St. Joseph Hospital and other organizations. He and Mary Lou were inducted into the Senior Foundation Hall of Fame for 50 years of charitable giving. Mike was a terrific mentor, and encouraged me to try new things in the Sister Cities organization. I was honored to have been able to give Mike and Mary Lou a flight in my balloon in January 1997.

This year marks Albuquerque's 300th anniversary, and the Tricentennial Committee is planning activities from April 2005 through October 2006. We're going to invite all eight of our sister cities and then enjoy the fun of visiting with old friends and meeting new ones! We'll need lots of help with the arrangements and will also need host homes for our visitors.

We're also planning to have more "Membership Events" this year. The first occurred last October with a great reception for our friends from Albuquerque, Spain. There were over 100 guests at the dinner, and everyone had a great time with Mayor Vardillo and his companions. Ramon Gonzales worked tirelessly with the city to make this happen. This month we had "Maskenball" at the German American club, organized by Wolfram Krank. There were 30+ guests who enjoyed a great dinner and entertainment.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 10-11	Chihuahua bilateral commission meeting here to develop business ties.
March 16	ASCF Board meeting, 5:30 pm at Bdwy and Lomas, 5 th floor.
April 16	Start of Tricentennial Celebration, through October 2006.
May 18	ASCF Board meeting, 5:30 pm at Bdwy and Lomas, 5 th floor.
June 26	* Annual Membership meeting, entertainment by Chihuahua committee and voting.
July 20	ASCF Board meeting, 5:30 pm at Bdwy and Lomas, 5 th floor.
May 18	ASCF Board meeting, 5:30 pm at Bdwy and Lomas, 5 th floor.
September 21	ASCF Board meeting, 5:30 pm at Bdwy and Lomas, 5 th floor.
October	* Evening party by Ashgabat committee.
November 16	ASCF Board meeting, 5:30 pm at Bdwy and Lomas, 5 th floor.

Sister City News - Fall 2004 - Winter 2005

Albuquerque

Ramon Gonzales reports on a visit from Albuquerque. **Mayor Angel Vadillo** lead a delegation of seven businessmen with their wives and three city officials from October 5-10. The trip was mainly business, but the itinerary included sightseeing and visits to the National Hispanic Culture Center, the Indian Pueblo Culture Center, the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce, the Biological Park, Balloon Fiesta Park and UNM. This visit resulted from discussions of business opportunities between the two cities during a brief stop over in Albuquerque while traveling through Spain by the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce in February of 2003. While here they met with various representatives from such companies as Team Specialty Products, Advent Solar, Talin Market, Zanios Foods and Garduño's of Mexico. The products they hope to export are bottled water, pork products (hams, sausage), bicycles and solar products. The visit was culminated by hosting our visitors to a dinner at the Evergreen IV Restaurant on their last night. Everyone participated in thanking and honoring **Mrs. Ruth Hashimoto** for sponsoring Albuquerque as our newest sister city.



Ramon, Mayor Vadillo, and Dave

Ashgabat

Sally-Alice Thompson reports on our trip to Ashgabat, October 23 through November 1. The group, consisting of **Dave Bagley**, **Betty-Mae Hartman**, **Sally-Alice Thompson** and **Richard Buckler**, as well as UNM political science professors **Greg Gleason** and **Mark Peceny**, arrived in Turkmenistan October 26, after spending two days in Moscow. First on the agenda was an evening reception at U.S. Ambassador **Tracey Ann Jacobson's** private residence. During our stay, we were hosted by local volunteers, who helped arrange our schedule and shuttle us around the city during the next few days. We started by watching a parade celebrating the 13th anniversary of Turkmenistan's independence, went to some wonderful lunches and dinners, visited museums, monuments, the mayor's office, as well as two educational institutes. With a suggestion from Sally-Alice to the mayor, we planted trees as a remembrance of our affiliation with this unique city. We also toured Old Nisa, reminding us of our own ancient pueblos. All too soon, we were on our way back to our final two days in Moscow, then home to our own land of enchantment.



Standing near a new mosque

Chihuahua

Alma Solis reports on several trips to Chihuahua during 2004. **Alma** arranged a sightseeing trip to Copper Canyon, including tours in and around Chihuahua City in September, a trip to the Mayor's inauguration in October. **Alma** also arranged a 'shoes for kids' trip in November, donating over 300 pair of shoes to needy children.

Guadalajara

Julia Stone reports that the planned trip to Guadalajara in October was postponed due to a possible visit by the Pope. She is planning another trip to Guadalajara during 2005.

Helmstedt

Wolfram Krank reports that Helmstedt is planning a trip to Albuquerque in October.

Hualien

Sidney Yen is our new chair for Hualien. No visits are planned at this time.

Lanzhou

Elena Lu reports no visits are planned at this time.

Sasebo

Kazumi Kawakubo reports that a student exchange from Sasebo is being planned for 2005. The students will be hosted by families of students who visited Sasebo in 2003.

Involve our youth in Sister Cities.

We're committed to add programs that inspire young people to become involved in our global society. What better education could you find than experiencing the cultures of our eight sister cities? Bring the kids to the June program. It's rated 'E' for Everyone.

Help Wanted - Newsletter Editor

Experience is helpful but not required. Working knowledge of word processor or page layout software and be able to work with digital and printed photos. Must have the desire to keep our members informed several times a year. Call Dave Bagley @ 771-2428.