

Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

Winter 2007

2006-2007

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WE DO NOT REMEMBER DAYS,
BUT MOMENTS.
LIFE MOVES
TOO FAST, SO
ENJOY YOUR
PRECIOUS MOMENTS.

Ashgabat Turkmenistan Committee Celebrates

On October 28, 2006 the ASCF Ashgabat, Turkmenistan committee celebrated Turkmenistan's 15 years of independence from the Soviet Union. Oguljan Halliyeva and her husband Nathan Young hosted a festive gathering, which featured Turkmen cuisine



*Richard Buckler,
Nathan Young and
Oguljan Halliyeva*

and door prizes. The party was planned in detail and it was easy for guests to imagine what it would be like to be in someone's house in Turkmenistan. There were several pictures on the walls from "Tolkuchka", the largest bazaar in Central Asia. The guests were "seated" in traditional Turkmen style - colorful cushions on the floor. The menu included a salad of cucumbers, tomatoes, green onion and parsley; palov (rice and carrots) with both beef and chicken; fresh fruits (persimmon, pear, pomegranate, apple, canteloupe and water-

melon); and for dessert hvorost (fried dough) and hot green tea. Door prizes were traditional Turkmen handicrafts. Some of the guests who had visited Turkmenistan be-

fore talked about the hospitality of the Turkmen people and how they felt the same hospitality in Oguljan and Nathan's house. Elle Tesche presented each attendee with an original handmade bookmark of dried flowers. Conversation flowed easily at the gathering and naturally it turned to Ashgabat. Richard Buckler, Committee Chair, said the group is planning a visit to Ashgabat in October 2007. He also gave each a copy of a chronology of key events in Turkmenistan, which was put together by Nathan. A few of the events are:

6th Century BC - area of what is now Turkmenistan forms part of the Persian Empire of Cyrus the Great.
4th Century BC - Alexander the Great conquers Central Asia, including Turkmenistan.

7th Century AD - Arabs conquer Central Asia, including Turkmenistan and introduce Islam.

10th - 13th Centuries - Nomadic Otghuz Seljuk tribes (ancestors of present-day Turkmen) and Mongols immigrate from the northeast. Genghis Khan conquers the region, including Turkmenistan.

15th-17th Centuries - southern part of Turkmenistan comes under Persian rule, while the northern part is dominated by Uzbek-ruled states of Khiva and Bukhara.

1881 - area of present-day Turkmenistan incorporated into Russian Turkestan after the Battle of Gok Tepe.

1921 - Turkmenistan forms part of the Turkestan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic.

1991 - Turkmenistan declares independence just before the collapse of the USSR.

Ashgabat was largely destroyed by an earthquake in 1948. Over 100,000 people were killed. Today showpiece buildings dominate the skyline and the population numbers 605,000.

From the President's Desk

Our plan to develop school-to-school relationships and provide Youth Cultural Exchanges with our sister cities is progressing. Albuquerque Academy plans to send a group of students to Colegio Guadalajara in March. The Academy hosted students from Guadalajara in October 2006 and described the visit as great fun and very educational. This is their students' first visit to Guadalajara and it will provide a wonderful opportunity to actually attend classes there for two weeks. Also, our Sasebo committee is now selecting the students who will travel to Sasebo in May-June to stay with families there and learn about the Japanese culture. In 2003 Albuquerque students visited Sasebo, and in 2005 Sasebo sent students here for an exchange visit. I've asked both groups of students to give us a presentation about their experiences at our annual meeting in June. In addition, a 9th grade class at the Albuquerque Institute for Mathematics and Science at UNM is doing a social

studies project on our sister cities. They've also asked for pen pals (or e-pals) in several of our sister cities. We're trying to arrange that now.

Carol Dawley organized a wonderful African Fashion Show for January. Her presentation gave us not only a look at traditional and casual clothing worn by people of Ghana, formerly called the Gold Coast, but also a background of this western African country. This unique event was so much fun that I predict we'll have several more, with fashion presentations from other countries.

Albuquerque Sister Cities provides at least four cultural events per year for its members to enjoy. Watch your mailbox or the calendar on our web site for upcoming events.

This past November, Chihuahua

hosted the second *Fiesta del Globos* (Festival of Hot Air Balloons). This balloon rally has become an important part of the partnership between our two cities, and it's a wonderful way to blend our similar cultures. Our balloon crew had a great time at this rally and we'll sign up for next year's event.

Sidney Yen (Hualien Committee Chair) visited with Mayor Tsai in January. Read the article about his two-day trip to Hualien.

Bob Montoya is the new chair for Guadalajara. Bob brings with him a unique background and will be working with the city to expand our cultural ties with Guadalajara. Welcome Bob!

Want more copies of this newsletter? You'll find them on our website - <http://www.albuquerque-sister-cities.org/Newsletters.htm>

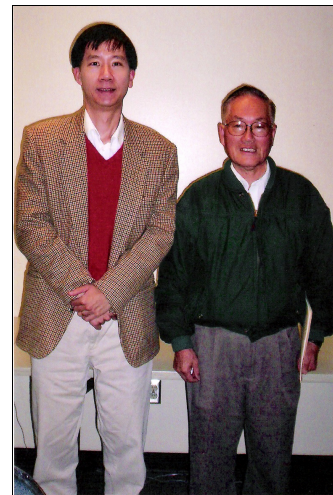
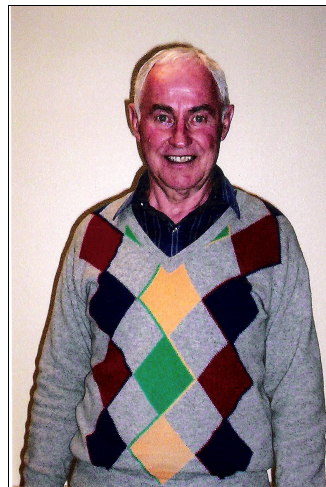
Dave Bagley

Meet Your Board: Wolfram Krank, Sidney Yen and Yu-Lin Shen

The Chair of the Helmstedt, Germany committee is Wolfram Krank. Born in Salzburg, Austria, he immigrated to the USA in 1965. He first went to San Diego for 6 months and then headed east. He got as far as Albuquerque and has resided here ever since. Wolfram married here in the USA and his daughter is now over 2 years old. She is learning to speak in three languages and is able to count to ten in German, Japanese and English.

In 1973 Ruth Hashimoto convinced Wolfram to join Albuquerque Sister Cities. The Helmstedt, Germany affiliation became official in May 1983 and Wolfram has been the chair ever since. Every other year he leads a delegation to Helmstedt, with the Germans coming here in the "other" years. A main feature of this association is the home hospitality being offered on both sides of the Atlantic. While the usual visit is about 2 weeks in length, not all that time is spent in the host

city. There is touring of the surrounding areas. A trip to Germany is being planned for the last two weeks in October. Those interested should contact Wolfram for more details. The Helmstedt committee welcomes new members and is also seeking a Co-Chair.



Yu-Lin Shen & Sidney Yen

Story continues on page 3.

Wolfram Krank

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Report of My Trip to Hualien by Sidney Yen

I traveled to Taiwan January 9 to January 27, 2007. While in Taiwan I spent two days visiting our sister city, Hualien. I flew from Taipei to Hualien and was greeted at the airport by three city officials - Mr. Tank Tan, Mr. David Chiang, and Mr. William Hsieh. All three were members of the Hualien delegation to Albuquerque for the tricentennial celebration in July 2006. We drove to City Hall to meet with Mayor Tsai. Upon entering City Hall, I was welcomed by the mayor, all the employees and the local media. I was really overwhelmed by their warm friendly reception. I presented Mayor Chavez's personal letter to Mayor Tsai. Mayor Tsai spoke to the media about the sister city relationship and I was also interviewed

by the television reporter. We all went to the Marshal Hotel for lunch; after which, the three city officials accompanied me on some sightseeing. We went to the beach and to Taroko National Park. That evening we dined at a well known restaurant. After dinner we visited many small shops full of stone and jade art objects. I spent the night at a hotel the city of Hualien had reserved for me.

The next morning the three city officials accompanied me to visit more tourist attractions including Farglory Hotel, Farglory Ocean Park, Dreamland recreational village, sea shell and fish farms and Amis aboriginal villages. For the first time I tasted the food prepared by the Amis aboriginals. Re-

turning to City Hall mid-afternoon we took more photos with the Mayor's staff and members of the Hualien delegation. Back to the airport and Taipei. It was truly a wonderful and unforgettable trip.



Sidney Yen presents Mayor Tsai with a personal letter from Mayor Chavez.

Meet Your Board Cont.

Sidney Yen is the Chair of the Hualien Committee. Born in Taiyun, China (located in north central China), he moved to Taiwan in 1949. In 1963 he came to the USA and settled in Albuquerque in 1966. He was a librarian at the University of New Mexico for thirty years before retiring in 1996.

In 1988 he was President of the New Mexico Chinese Association. As was then the custom, the year after the presidency, the person became Chair of the Hualien Committee of the Albuquerque Sister Cities. He did just that. Since 1989 there have been other chairs of this committee. The custom has changed and Sidney is back as Chair. January 9 - 27, 2007 Sidney traveled to Taiwan to visit with his mother. While there he visited Hualien. (See

related article.) This trip was Sidney's first trip back to Taiwan since he left 34 years ago.

Yu-Lin Shen, PhD. is the Co-Chair for the Hualien Committee. Born in Taiwan, he came to the USA in 1990. In 1996 he moved to Albuquerque to join the faculty of the University of New Mexico. Currently he is a Professor and the Director of Graduate Programs in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. For the past 10 years he has been a member of the New Mexico Chinese Association and is currently on its board. In addition to Albuquerque Sister Cities and New Mexico Chinese Association, he is a member of several professional societies including the American Society of Mechanical Engineers; Materials

Research Society, the Minerals, Metals and Materials Society; and Sigma Xi - the Scientific Research Society. He lives a busy life engaging in teaching, research and various kinds of professional and community service activities. He likes to spend his spare time with his family and studying histories about 20th century military warfare.

You Know When You Are Getting Older When:

You get winded playing checkers - You order Geritol on the rocks - You look forward to a dull evening - You pray for a good prune harvest - A fortune teller wants to read your face - Your knees buckle, but your belt won't - You stop to think and forget to start again - Your pace-maker opens the garage door whenever a cute gal goes by - You need your glasses to find your glasses.

CAR FACTS

Pound for pound, a hamburger costs more than a new car.

Next time you fill your gas tank, consider this: The Model T Ford got 25 mpg, which is better mileage than today's average new car gets.

African Fashion Show

The first general meeting of the year for Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation members was held Sunday, January 28, 2007. It featured an African fashion show with styles from Ghana. Male, female and children outfits were worn. Some Ghanaian folk arts and photos were on display. Guests were treated to refreshments of hot beverages and delicious cake.

Speical thank you to Andra McClung for moderating and to the models: Judith Kaiper, Marcia Koschmann, Heather Tanner, Dave Bagley, Kim Buckler, Koren Stewart, Beth Shroff, Robbie Dawley, Pamela & Ryan Suazo, Kate & Anna Suazo, Carol Von Soosten.



Nana Ekua I, Queen Mother of Kwaprow, Ghana seated with the fashion show models.



Dave Bagley



Marcia Koschmann



Judith Kaiper



Heather Tanner & Robbie Dawley



Kim Buckler



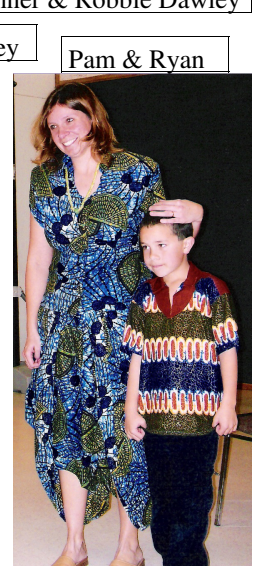
Koren Stewart



Beth Shroff



Andra McClung & Sean Dawley



Pam & Ryan

UPCOMING
EVENTS

MARCH
17 - 31
Youth Cultural
Exchange
(Albuquerque
Academy) to
Guadalajara,
Mexico - con-
tact Dave
Bagley for
more info

MARCH 21
ASCF Board
Meeting - 5:15
pm -Compass
Bank- 505
Marquette NW
- 14th floor - all
welcome

MAY 16
ASCF Board
Meeting

MAY 25 -
JUNE 3
Youth Cultural
Exchange
(APS) to
Sasebo, Japan -
contact Kazumi
Kawakubo for
more info

JUNE 24
Annual ASCF
Membership
Meeting - 12-
4pm - food,
entertainment,
elections

JULY 18
ASCF Board
Meeting

SEPTEMBER
19
ASCF Board
Meeting

Sister Cities International Horse Race

Lordsburg in Hidalgo County, New Mexico is sister cities with Janos, Chihuahua, Mexico. Their fourth Annual Sister Cities celebration was held October 21, 2006 at the international border of El Berrendo and Antelope Wells. The purpose was to exhibit each other's culture, exchange goods and improve the relationship between the two countries. Large crowds of people from both the USA and Mexico came to the reunion to enjoy the music and dancing, sample a wide variety of items from the food and craft booths and to watch the international

horse race. Because the horses from Mexico cannot enter the USA and visa versa, the race is held on the border. The Mexican horses race on their side of the border and the USA horses on the New Mexican side of the border. Lordsburg first forged a sister city relationship with Janos, Mexico in 2002. Since then a good relationship has grown between the two cities. The long-term goal is to promote the Hidalgo County port of entry which will, in the long run, boost travel, tourism and economic development in the area on both sides of the border.

Sasebo, Japan Visit

In October 2006, two members of the ASCF, Michael and Jeremie Sare, volunteers on the Sasebo committee, had the opportunity to visit Sasebo. Their visit was received with extraordinary hospitality and goodwill by city officials and citizens alike. Building on friendships established during 2005 Sasebo youth visit to NM and the recent Albuquerque Tricentennial celebration, Michael and Jeremie were delighted to have the opportunity to reunite with several Sasebo folk and to visit a variety of famous sights - the famous 99 islands; the Dutch village of Huis Ten Bosch (which houses an extraordinary teddy bear museum and beautiful gardens); a firehouse and the central 119 Emergency Response Center (We dial 911, in Sasebo, they dial 119); Sasebo Naval Base; a Japanese naval history museum. They traversed and photographed the "famous" Albuquerque

Bridge. Ms. Naomi Takeguchi, the Sasebo Sister City official who accompanied last year's youth to NM, graciously hosted Michael and Jeremie and arranged most of their itinerary. Their schedule included an afternoon tea with several of the exchange students. One of the trip highlights was the opportunity to pay a courtesy call on Sasebo's Mayor Mitsutake and his helpful staff. Even though the Sares were not traveling in an official capacity, the mayor was kind enough to receive them. The Sares returned to the USA with great memories, hundreds of photos and the hope of returning to fabulous Sasebo. It is a unique city of beautiful scenery, interesting sights and history, delicious food, and most notably, warm, cordial people who share the spirit of friendship promoted by the Sister City partnership.

"A diplomat is a man who always remembers a woman's birthday but never remembers her age." - Robert Frost

*Is Your Passport
Current???**Upcoming ASCF Trips*

October 2007 - last 2 weeks - Helmstedt, Germany - contact Wolfram Krank for more info.

October 2007 - Ashgabat, Turkmenistan - contact Richard Buckler for more info.

Bring on the Youth!

The benefits on having youth members in an organization are many. They attract younger volunteers. They bring fresh ideas and welcome new activities. It provides for an intergenerational setting. They help build community involvement and awareness and expand the support for your activity. And they help to build a foundation for future volunteers. The youth also receive benefits - they get credit for volunteering; develop connection with other students; are eligible for scholarships; and get an opportunity to view potential career paths.

"Look at a day when you are supremely satisfied at the end. It's not a day when you lounge around doing nothing; it's when you've had everything to do and you've done it." - Margaret Thatcher

Ballooning in Chihuahua, Fiesta del Globos 2006

by Dave Bagley

The second annual *Fiesta del Globos* (Festival of Hot Air Balloons) was held in Chihuahua, Mexico November 10-12, 2006, with 31 US and 3 Mexican balloons. It was organized by volunteers from the Albuquerque Aerostat Ascension Association. This year, I was able to go as second pilot for "Athena," owned by Kris Econopouly of Rio Rancho. Our regular crewmembers, Lori, Rich and Richard came with us; and Alan and Christina volunteered from the University in Chihuahua to help us navigate the traffic and translate for us. Our convoy of nine balloon trucks arrived November 9 after an uneventful trip of 11 hours from Rio Rancho, and were greeted by Mayor Juan Blanco at a reception that evening, with lots of good food and drink and a live band.

Early Friday morning we drove to the launch field, about 5 miles from our comfortable Holiday Inn Express. The field was well prepared, with our launch squares marked and plenty of tents for vendors. After a pilot briefing from balloonmeister Scott Appleman, the crews got busy setting up their balloons for launch. The weather was good, and all 34 balloons were soon up in the air, and were able to "box" over the field to the delight of the crowd of about 3,000. There were lots of young students from local schools present, and soon after the balloons launched an hour-long show kept the children entertained while we drifted away. When the balloon trucks returned to the field, we had prepared a treat for the kids - handing out posters, calendars, candy and give-aways for about an hour. Our crew gave out about 2,000 posters to the endless stream of youngsters. During the mid-day break, we headed downtown on a tour, compliments of the city; returning to the field for the evening balloon glow. I was dubious that it would be held as the ground wind kept increasing. However, just after sunset, it calmed down and 15 or

or balloons thrilled the crowd for about 90 minutes.

Saturday morning we headed back to the launch field for another mass ascension. Kris suggested that I pilot the balloon today. What an opportunity! We loaded the two local passengers in and were off for a delightful 30 minute flight, landing in a large field. We put our two university students in for a ride, and 45 minutes later came in for a nice landing next to the Coca Cola plant. After the flight, we returned to the launch field and distributed the remaining 3,000 posters to the crowd of kids. We were on our own for the evening, enjoying a delicious dinner at a local seafood restaurant. Sunday morning we found the launch field very windy, and Scott cancelled the final mass ascension. This was unfortunate as more spectators were on the field that day than the previous two. But it was an issue of safety and everyone understood when we told them *demasiado viento* (too much wind). Later that evening we ventured downtown for dinner and had a wonderful meal at the Cafe Calicanto. Monday we headed home, easily re-entering the USA at Santa Teresa.

The cities of Albuquerque and Chihuahua worked together for a year to put this event on for the people of Chihuahua, and hopefully will do so for years to come. We flew our balloons in the casual culture of Chihuahua and we had as much fun as the people of Mexico who watched us. Just before we left, I asked Alan if he would like to be in our Balloon Fiesta. Oh, the look I got! "Could I?" he asked. We expect to see him here in Albuquerque in October.



"Athena" flying in Chihuahua.



Kris and Dave dancing to the music on the field.



Balloon glow with "Athena" from Rio Rancho and Albuquerque Tricentennial balloon.

More Photos!!!!



Lori handing out some 5,000 posters to kids on the launch field.



Crowd on launch field (it's early morning).



Ogulijan pours tea for Kim Buckler and Sally-Alice Thompson.



Guests enjoying the Turkmenistan repast.



Ellie Tesche and her bookmarks



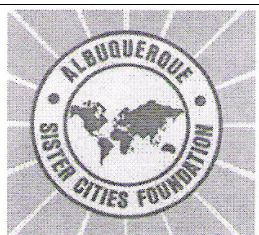
Nana Ekua I, Queen Mother of Kwaprow aka Carol Dawley



Anna and Kate Suazo

Carol Von Soosten





P.O. Box 26693
Albuquerque, NM
87125



ALBUQUERQUE SISTER CITIES FOUNDATION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION Annual Dues

Membership is: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

P.O. Box 26693
Albuquerque, NM 87125



- | | |
|--|----------|
| <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 |

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