

Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

Winter 2009

2008-2009

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Helmstedt Students Visit Albuquerque Academy

Eight students from Helstedt, Germany visited the Albuquerque Academy from October 2, 2008 through October 23. While here they stayed in homes of other Academy students. The exchange focused on academics, allowing the Helstedt students to expand their knowledge of English, while attending various classes at Academy. They were also able to visit the Petrified Forest and the Grand Canyon in nearby Arizona.

On a pleasant fall evening Karin Cyrol, Helmstedt's Chair to our city and the 8

students attended a pizza party held in their honor at Richard and Mary Hope Buckler's home. At the gathering, the students were able to learn a little about our Sister City organization by conversing with some of our members. Many of the students honed their trampoline skills in the Buckler's backyard. ASCF gave the visitors commemorative bags and 2009 Balloon Fiesta calendars. They also had a chance earlier that afternoon to visit the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, thanks to transportation provided by Membership Chair, Dave Bagley.



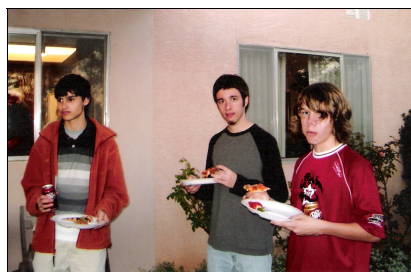
Mary Hope Buckler and Karin Cyrol at pizza party.

Maja Whittington, ASCF Treasurer Retires

Maja Whittington's last official act as ASCF treasurer was the November 19, 2008 board meeting. Here she received a certificate of Appreciation from ASCF President, Richard Buckler and all enjoyed refreshments - homemade apple strudel made and served by Wolfram Krank. Thank you Maja for your seven years of service. Her replacement, ASCF's new treasurer, is Carol Spradley.



Wolfram Krank serves Maja some of his homemade strudel



Helmstedt students savoring the pizza.



ASCF President, Richard Buckler presents Maja Whittington with a Certificate of Appreciation.

From the President's Desk

Dear Members,

The New Year has a lot in store for those of us committed to the vision of Sister Cities. The challenge for us on your board is how to best facilitate and communicate this vision to all of our membership, as well as to our community.

Now nine sister cities strong, we will continue to have up to a minimum of four meetings a year. Such gatherings are a great opportunity for all of us to learn about Citizen Diplomacy, as well as have a good time doing so. Food, Fun, Fellowship - all with a purpose.

Look for the first of our cultural events in May, when we highlight Albuquerque, Spain. At this meeting, Ramon Gonzales, the Chair for this committee, will also give us more information for a September 2009 trip to Spain.

Mark June 14 on your calendars when our annual meeting will be held at the Jewish Community Center, featuring Middle Eastern cuisine and entertainment, and allowing you to learn more about our newest sister city, Rehovot, Israel.

Take a trip to Ireland with us at the end of July as we promote all of our sister cities at the Belfast 2009 Sister Cities International Conference. Costs for international travel are be-

coming more affordable all the time as the dollar has begun to strengthen. Sister Cities International has already negotiated special discount rates with Continental Airlines. For more information on airfare, hotels, tour packages, or even conference registration, see www.Sister-Cities.org. You do not need to attend the conference in order to help out. Anyone interested can join us for an Irish Tea Evening April 17, 2008 at the Little Turtle Clubhouse, 7500 Prairie Rd. NE.

Several trips are being planned for this calendar year and even early next year. More information will be forthcoming when details are known. In addition to a trip to Albuquerque, Spain already mentioned above, other plans currently include visits to Ashgabat, Turkmenistan; Chihuahua, Mexico; Sasebo, Japan; and Rehovot, Israel.

Truly 2009 promises to be a fulfilling year.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

Happy New Year!



Richard Buckler, President

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ASCF President Gives Speeches

Recently the President of ASCF, Richard Buckler, was invited by the Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs to speak on "What is Sister Cities?" And, because of the recent twinning between Albuquerque and Rehovot, Israel, President Buckler participated last November in an event at the Kiva Auditorium sponsored by Christians United for Israel, and

Son Broadcasting, T.V. Pictured with him on stage are Robert Efroymson, President of Albuquerque's Jewish Federation and Mike Unthank, a business consultant to our last three state governors. All three had the opportunity to travel together to Rehovot, Israel last September to attend the official signing ceremony by Mayors Chavez and Forer.



Photo courtesy of Son Broadcasting, T.V.

L. to R. Richard Buckler, Robert Efroymson, and Mike Unthank

SCI Honorary Board Trip to China

The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries invited Elena Lu, treasurer of the SCI Honorary Board to attend the China International Friendship Cities Conference in Beijing from November 7 - 9, 2008 and the Third Friendship Forum from November 10 -14 in Changsha and Zhangjiajie of the Hunan Province.

Elena Lu arranged for six SCI Honorary Board members to attend these events with her. The delegation consisted of Nancy Huppert, Jean Van Buskirk, George Van Buskirk, Carol Lopez, Jeff Case, and Elena Lu. China's Vice President, Xi Jinping, took part in the opening ceremony of the Conference; giving a welcoming speech. CCTV National Evening News

included the SCI Honorary Board members in its coverage of the Conference. While in Changsha for the Forum, the group visited Shao Shan, Chairman Mao's hometown. Shao Shan is a small mountain village about 20 miles southwest of Changsha, the capital of Hunan province. The delegation also visited Yellow Dragon Cave, one of the foremost scenic areas in Zhangjiajie. Yellow Dragon Cave has been honored as a "magical cave" both in China and in the world.



SCI Honorary Board delegation at Conference venue. Right to Left - Jim Doumas (Representative of SCI); Elena Lu, Carol Lopez (NM State Coordinator); Jean Van Buskirk; Jeff Case; and George Van Buskirk

Elena Lu in Shao Shan. Chairman Mao was born in this house December 26, 1893.



News From Chihuahua

In November 2008, the annual hot air balloon fiesta was held in Chihuahua. Alma Solis, Chair of the Chihuahua committee, traveled to Mexico with the Albuquerque balloon pilots. While there, Alma presented 4,000 toys (which were donated by an Albuquerque business) to Chihuahua's First Lady to be delivered to Chihuahua's Children's Hospital, orphanages, Center of Children with Cancer, children homeless shelters and the Rehabilitation Center for Children.

Alma also delivered books to the Luis Urias Elementary School in Chihuahua. Because the number of books has increased, the school has upgraded its library and moved it to a bigger space. (See page 5 for another photo.)



Alma Solis (center) presenting books to Luis Urias School.

Sasebo News

Aki Matsuri Event was held on September 28, 2008. Students who went to Sasebo in the past helped to man the booth. Many students/parents signed up for the future youth exchange program. The students enjoyed sharing their experiences with those who are interested in our program.

Ondine Scott from the 1st Sister City Youth delegates of 2003 has been accepted into the University in Akita, Japan. She has studied Japanese on her own when she first participated in the Youth Exchange. Currently attending UNM, she would like to continue to strengthen her Japanese at the University in Japan. An active member of the Sasebo Committee, she and her family hosted a student from Sasebo in 2006.

REHOVOT, ISRAEL NEWS

Since the September trip to Rehovot, the Rehovot Committee hosted a meeting with the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science. Dr. Michael Neiditch, Vice President for Leadership Giving, gave a presentation to those attending about the Weizmann's scientific discoveries in medicine and environmental sustainability. Anita Miller, Chair of the Rehovot Committee, had invited representatives from Sandia Laboratories, TVC, the venture capital "arm" of Sandia Laboratories and UNM, and Mesa Del Sol to attend as potential partners with Weizmann in bringing scientific-based economic development to both cities.

David Goldheim representing Lockheed Martin, and formerly head of Technology Transfer at Sandia attended as did Harry Relkin of Forest Cities Covington, the developer of Mesa del Sol. Both were interested in potential partnerships with Weizmann/Rehovot.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep regret that we announce the death on December 5, 2008 of Ned Miller, husband of Rehovot Chair, Anita Miller. He was a member of Rotary, the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce, NM Holocaust Museum, Congregation Albert and immediate past president of New Mexico/El Paso Leukemia-Lymphoma Society.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 18 - ASCF Board meeting - Compass bank - 505 Marquette - 14th floor - 5:30 pm - all welcome

April 17 - Irish Tea / Informational meeting about trip to Belfast, Ireland
7 pm - Little Turtle Clubhouse - 7500 Prairie NE

May - Alburqueque, Spain event - information about a September trip to Spain

May 20 - ASCF Board Meeting - Compass Bank - 505 Marquette - 14th floor
5:30 pm - all welcome

June 14 - ASCF Annual Meeting
Jewish Community Center

July 29 - 31 - SCI International Conference - Belfast, Northern Ireland

July/August - Sasebo Youth to visit Albuquerque

September - ASCF trip to Albuquerque, Spain

October - ASCF trip to Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

November - ASCF trip to Chihuahua, Mexico

WANTED: Your Email

Please make sure that Dave Bagley, Membership Chair, has your email. Dave's email is:
dave3114@gmail.com

TRAVELING WITH ASCF

Dust off your passport and join Albuquerque Sister Cities on some or all of the following adventures!!

NORTHERN IRELAND - Sister Cities International will hold its annual conference in Belfast, Northern Ireland from July 29 to August 1. Arrive before the conference - stay afterwards. An Irish Tea/Informational meeting will be held Friday April 17 at 7pm at Little Turtle Clubhouse, 7500 Prairie NE

ALBUQUERQUE, SPAIN - Albuquerque Chair, Ramon Gonzales is organizing a trip to Spain this September that should be 10 to 14 days in length with a stop in Albuquerque. In May there will be an Albuquerque event where information about the trip will be given. Can't wait for more info - contact Ramon Gonzales at 873-0840 or email rdgonzales@comcast.net

ASHGABAT, TURKMENISTAN - Ashgabat Chair, Bill Myer is planning a trip to Ashgabat in October. If interested, contact Bill or his wife, Mellie at 821-8774 or email bill.myer@yahoo.com

CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO - Chihuahua Chair, Alma Solis is arranging a trip to Chihuahua, Mexico this November. The trip is to coincide with the annual Chihuahua Balloon Fiesta. If interested, contact Alma Solis at 804-5471 or email almasolis5@hotmail.com



Alma Solis and Chihuahua's First Lady present a gift to a hospitalized child. Alma said, "I can't express my emotions and feelings when you are giving a gift to a very ill child or to a homeless child; their expressions stay in my mind and in my heart. It makes me happy to be the one to deliver a little bit of happiness to these kids."

ASCF Business Members

Joseph Gabel - Owner/Manager


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Special thanks to Bob Feinberg of Grubb and Ellis for his recent generous donation to the Rehovot Committee.

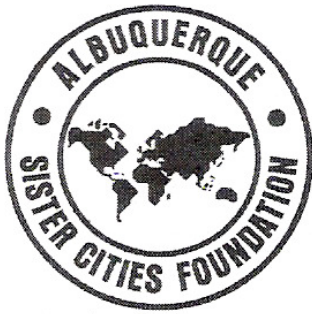


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In This Issue...

Upcoming ASCF trips to Belfast, Albuquerque, Ashgabat, and Chihuahua.

Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual Dues

Membership is: ___ New ___ Renewal



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