



Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation Newsletter

President's Corner

I want to thank all of the wonderful volunteers of our organization for working tirelessly to build bridges with our friends from around the globe! Thanks to the support of all our members who know this organization is important to promote understanding and peace in the world! We had a wonderful 2018 filled with many events. You can read about some of the events in this edition of our newsletter for the second half of 2018. We are also looking forward to 2019 in which we will do more community outreach and organize presentations about our wonderful organization. I invite all of you and bring a friend to the annual International Tea which will take place on January 26th of 2019.

Sincerely,

Oguljan Young
ASCF President





Our Board member, Carol Dawley retired after many years of service to our organization. Certificate of Appreciation is awarded at the Annual Meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Albuquerque Sister Cities held its Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 2, 2018, at 12:00 noon, at Los Cuates Restaurant. Following the meal, General Meeting was held and officers were elected for the next year.

Elected officers are as follows:

President - Oguljan Young
1st Vice President - Pam Feather
2nd Vice President - Nathan Young

3rd Vice President - Dave Bagley
Secretary - Sybil Keyser
Treasurer - Richard Buckler



Sister Cities International Conference - Aurora, Colorado, August 2-5, 2018

Submitted by Richard Buckler

Beautiful Aurora, Colorado hosted this years' conference focusing on the theme of "Cities Leading the Way." Representing your Albuquerque Sister Cities program were Guadalajara Chair Marie Trigg, Ashgabat Co-Chair Alana McGrattan, President Oguljan Young, and Treasurer Richard Buckler (who also is the SCI appointed State Representative for New Mexico).

Aurora Mayor Bob LeGare warmly welcomed the over 500 attendees of youth, city officials, ambassadors, and citizen diplomats emphasizing that Aurora itself serves as an example of how the sister city program can transform a city. Once a small agricultural community just west of Denver, Aurora, according to Mayor LeGare, now has grown into a large city that is an important part of the growing international sector of the entire region. He believes, though, that the Sister Cities Network, as exemplified by Aurora's own sister cities such as Seongnam, Republic of South Korea, showcases the best practices that can be shared in technologies, Smart Cities, clean energy, medical advances, immigrant integration, and of course what citizen diplomats do best—make friends and enjoy cultural exchanges.

SCI President and CEO Roger-Mark DeSouza concurred with this assessment and told delegates that his goal at the conferences was to provide tracks that allowed all to be exposed to such best practices. Day 1 focused on how much of China, Central Asia, India, and Africa—all part of the ancient Silk Road and Water-Ways—is being revitalized. China's "One Belt-One Road" policy, set into motion by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013, is investing over a trillion dollars in building up the infrastructure with its neighbors reached from "land and sea." Albuquerque was asked to provide two speakers for the "silk road" theme. Richard Buckler spoke on Lanzhou's ancient and modern connections to the "silk road" and the bright future Lanzhou has as the capital of the Gansu Province. Oguljan Young, herself born and raised in Turkmenistan, gave an insider's perspective on the revitalization taking place in Central Asia.

Other speakers in this track included former Ambassador of the United States to Kyrgyzstan, John O'Keefe; Xie Yuan, Vice President of Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries; and Dr. Aaron Wolf, Professor at Oregon State University.

Simultaneously, SCI ran a track focused on NextGen and Entrepreneurship. Several CEO's of leading upstart corporations spoke, providing attendees insights into how their cities can develop strong economic partnerships in their community and across the world.

Day 1 also featured a wonderfully entertaining, yet informative opening luncheon speech by Derran Moses, Humanitarian Affairs Officer at the United Nations. For Young Professionals there was the chance to network with each other at a special Happy Hour event later in the day.

Day 2 featured the traditional Parade of Flags and opening keynote speeches that included Julian Castro, former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and Mayor of San Antonio. John Thon Majok, Senior Program Analyst, Global Sustainability and Resilience Program at the Wilson Center, spoke at lunch. Originally from Sudan, Mr. Majok described his first-hand experiences as a refugee in Ethiopia and Kenya, finally coming to the United States in 2001 through the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program.

Simultaneously to sessions on successful sister city models, sports-arts-musical diplomacy, and Smart Cities, Sister Cities International conducted its annual meeting, electing new board members to fill open positions. Then, all got on buses that took them to the famous Stanley Market, where special food and beverage tasting from Aurora's five sister cities were featured. Delegates had a chance to get a little shopping in before returning to the conference hotel.

The Final Day 3 had some innovative changes that allowed the attendees at the conference to meet the Country Regional Directors, as well as the State Representatives, under a "fast-track" focus. Attendees learned how to use these leaders as a resource. State Representatives, for example, broke into 10 groups focusing on a different "How To." How to write grants, how to jump-start stalled programs, how to make the needed diplomatic connections—were just some of the group topics attendees could discuss first-hand with state representatives.

Of course, SCI continued to include sessions on how to leverage your own community programs, and the nuts and bolts of turning sister city programs into economic benefit for your city. Other last day highlights included the great keynote speaker at lunch --Dr. Neil Parsan, former Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago to the United States and the OAS. Ending the conference on a high-note was the Awards Dinner, which allowed attendees to relax over a cocktail, enjoy a great dinner, applaud cities that were awarded "Best of SCI" for the past year, and dance to a great jazz band. Of special note: this year's winner of the Ruth Hashimoto Life-Time Achievement Award was Kathleen Roche Tansey, a SCI State Representative and Co-Chair of the 2018 Aurora Conference. With Kathleen's influence this years conference featured a very full-schedule of interesting and profitable meetings and exchanges. Ruth would be proud of her.



2018 Membership Trip to Helmstedt, Germany

Submitted by Nathan Young

An official trip to our sister city of Helmstedt, Germany occurred in July of 2018. The delegation consisted of 16 members. The group stayed with host families in and around Helmstedt. During the visit the delegation helped Helmstedt celebrate their 40th anniversary as a sister city with Vitri, France. 2018 was also Helmstedt and Albuquerque's 35 anniversary.

To celebrate this, the delegation led by Chair Nathan Young, brought 100 eight-ounce jars of New Mexico green Chile salsa to share with Helmstedt. The salsa was produced especially for delegation by Albuquerque's famous Cervantes restaurant. In 2023 Helmstedt and Albuquerque plan on having a party to celebrate their 40th anniversary.

During the visit Helmstedt Chairs Siegfried Dehning and Nathan Young met with Albuquerque Sister Cities President Oguljan Young and started the initial planning of an Albuquerque/Helmstedt student music program. This program will occur in July of 2019.

An Helmstedt delegation led by Sigfried will also be arriving in the Fall of 2019. The next Albuquerque membership trip to Helmstedt is scheduled for July of 2020. For more info on any of the scheduled programs or trips, please contact Helmstedt Chairs Nathan Young and/or Ray Heidfeld.



Aki Matsuri Event in Albuquerque

Submitted by Kazumi Kawakubo Todman

The largest Japanese community event, Aki Matsuri (Fall Festival), takes place on the third Sunday of September every year sponsored by Japanese American Citizens League (NMJSCL). Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation (ASCF) has supported this event for many years.

This year's Aki Matsuri 2018 was held at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial, 1100 Louisiana Blvd. SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108 on Sunday, September 23rd from 10 am to 5 pm.

We participated in Aki Matsuri 2018 at this new venue. The Sister City Booth was located at very nice spot across from the Exhibition Pavilion.

Sasebo Sister City Committee - from left: Denise Mullen, youth coordinator; Pam Feather, co-chair; Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman, chair; Rachel and David Barns, trainees of youth coordinator.

People enjoyed Japanese inspired foods and also different ethnic foods. There were food trucks and

NMJACL provided food and drinks booths as well. The entertainment was amazing, it included traditional dance & singing, taiko drumming, children's activities, and martial arts demonstrations. The Art exhibition as well as the Sake and Beer Sampling was back by popular demand. Overall, it was a wonderful and successful event.



Activities with our Sister City of Chihuahua

Submitted by Alma Solis

On September 10, we went to Chihuahua's Mayor Maru Campos inauguration to represent our city and our Mayor Tm Keller. The city's Economic Development Director Synthia Jaramillo, Randy Trask from the Mayor's office, a group of four distinguished business personalities and myself attended meetings related to the exchange of culture activities, Police and Fire Rescue training to our sister city of Chihuahua departments and the introduction of the sister cities Economic Development Directors with future projects.

On September 14 - 17 a group of four runners and two artesans-Tarahumaras from Chihuahua came to participate at the Eighth Santa Fe Buffalo Thunder half marathon.

On December 3--8, I accompanied two Deputy Chiefs to Chihuahua from the Albuquerque Fire Rescue Academy to train officials from the Chihuahua's fire department.

Here are some pictures of the past two events that we participated in with our sister city of Chihuahua!



INAUGURAL FLIGHT FROM GUADALAJARA TO ALBUQUERQUE

Submitted by Ernie Garcia

On November 17th the inaugural flight between Guadalajara and Albuquerque carried a diverse group of city officials from both cities (including our Mayor Tim Keller) and business people ready to take advantage of new business, cultural, tourism, and educational opportunities these flights will offer to both countries. Sister Cities of Albuquerque and Guadalajara participated in the events beginning with a press conference conducted at the Guadalajara City Hall and finishing with the inaugural flight and subsequent press conference in Albuquerque. Our Sister Cities partners in Guadalajara are working with us to get a couple of students from Guadalajara to attend school in Albuquerque at the Community College of New Mexico (CNM), a project that will benefit from having inexpensive direct flights between our cities. A number of individuals from both cities have shown great interest in helping with this project. The new year will be off to a great start with our friends and partners in Guadalajara.



**INTERNATIONAL TEA- SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2019
12:00-2:30 PM**

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ALBUQUERQUE SISTER
CITIES ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL TEA**

MANZANO MESA MULTIGENERATIONAL CENTER

501 ELIZABETH SE, ALBUQUERQUE

Board of Directors

- **President - Oguljan Young**
 - (505) 917-4326
 - President@albuquerque-sister-cities.org
- **1st Vice President - Pam Feather**
 - (505) 980-5886
 - VP1@albuquerque-sister-cities.org
- **2nd Vice President - Nathan Young**
 - (505) 977-6033
 - VP2@albuquerque-sister-cities.org
- **3rd Vice President - Dave Bagley**
 - (505) 771-3114
 - VP3@albuquerque-sister-cities.org
- **Secretary - Sybil Keyser**
 - (505) 263-6654
 - Secretary@albuquerque-sister-cities.org
- **Treasurer - Richard Buckler**
 - (505) 291-8175
 - Treasurer@albuquerque-sister-cities.org

Copyright © 2018 Albuquerque Sister Cities, All rights reserved.

A short reminder.

Our mailing address is:

Albuquerque Sister Cities
PO Box 26533
Albuquerque, NM 87125-6533