Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

July 2006

2006-2007

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The State Tree of New Mexico is the pinon.



$\overline{WOW!!}$ What a Party!!!

The city of Albuquerque celebrated its 300th in style. Seven of its sister cities were present to join the festivities. From gracious welcomes to farewells there was something happening every minute.

In attendance were Alburquerque, Spain; Ashgabat, Turkmenistan; Chihuahua, Mexico; Guadalajara, Mexico; Hualien, Taiwan; Lanzhou, China; and Sasebo, Japan.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to the special 300th celebration committee for their hard work. The event was most successful. Pictured below is the committee. Left to right: seated is Kay Carrico and Ikuko Begay. Standing is Dave Bagley, ASCF President; Davis Begay, and Randy LeCocq.

The activities ranged from tour ing museums, delightul meals, Japanese Garden dedication at the Biopark, a rare book donation to UNM, hot air balloon rides, July 4 concerts & fireworks.



City of Albuquerque Tricentennial balloon.

On April 23, 1706, Gov. Francisco Cuervo y Valdes of the Spanish province of New Mexico founded the Villa de Albuquerque de San Xavier del Bosque.

The State Bird of NM is the roadrunner, which can race along at 20 miles an hour. The bird is also known as the chaparral and is a species of cuckoo.

The Annual meeting of ASCF

June 11, 2006 the annual meeting of the Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation was held. Members gathered at the Manzano High School for a pot luck lunch followed by entertainment. The New Mexico branch of Miyagi Ryuo School of Okinawan Dance (formed in 1995) performed cultural dances. During an intermission while the dancers changed their elaborate costumes, a charming Japanese lady had the audience all doing a traditional dance to the coal mine song.



Pictured are the Okinawan dancers.

The flags of Spain, the Republic of Mexico, the Confederate States of America and the United States of America have all flown over the state of New Mexico.

From The President's Desk

Thanks for the memories!

So many people did so many things for our guests during the Tricentennial. I want to thank them here, so you'll know who they are. The memories that they helped make are now part of countless lives and our guests will certainly remember us for years to come. Thanks to all.

Davis & Ikuko Begay, Randy LeCocq & Kay Carrico aka the Tricentennial Committee: They stepped up to a really big challenge, doing everything asked of them, and more. We simply wouldn't have been able to pull this event off without them.

Kazumi Kawakubo and Pam Feather: For organizing the dedication of the Japanese garden, in addition to ensuring the comfort and well being of the 60 Sasebo guests. Their group of volunteers put in long hours of planning well before anyone arrived, and kept up the pace during the entire week.

Ramon & Margaret Gonzales: Alburquerque was well taken care of, from when they stepped off the plane until they departed The book donation at UNM was a

highlight for the Spanish visitors. Richard Buckler, Oguljan Halliyeva, & Sally-Alice Thompson:.

Many late nights of planning to get the guests here from Ashgabat. Their host families graciously offered their homes, cars and time to accomodate our guests. Richard for "Above and Beyond", including a drive to Santa Fe with the sack lunches when no one else could do it. Oguljan for her talented interpreting and support.

Julia & Gary Stone: For jumping in at the last minute, when Guadalajara said they would be coming. They made sure that each guest was taken care of from arrival to departure.

David and Kathy Hsi: David organized an extra day of tours and meetings for those from Lanzhou He and Kathy graciously hosted our guests and their recption.

Alma Solis: Alma handled the guests from Chihuahua - the largest delegation. Ensuring their being taken care of, she organized their hotel stay, some of their meals, and also kept up with Mayor Blanco.

Sidney Yen: Sidney received a

2:00 AM phone call in mid-June telling him that Hualien was coming. Sidney handled all the details of their visit, making everone feel welcome and comfortable.

The balloon pilots and crews: Volunteering their time at dawn on July 4th, they created 220 memories and are outstanding representatives of our ballooning community They are why Albuquerque is known as the "Balloon Capital of the World." Chierf Marshall Katz and his entire staff at the airport: An

Fred Mondragon and the staff at the Economic Development Dept.

"Above and Beyond" Award for

They made things happen, and provided the financial support for us. Fred and Alberto ensured that everything kept moving morning and night.

Mayor Martin Chavez. It was the Mayor's idea to have this wonderful celebration. He was the consummate host and graced many of the individual events with his presence.

The Hyatt and Doubletree hotels and their staff: They made our guests comfortable during their

stay.

Ray Darnell and the staff at the Botanical Garden:

They designed a spectacular setting for the Sasebo Garden, and a memorable formal event for its dedication.

Carol Dawley: Without our talented & energetic editor, there would be no Special Edition. She seemed to be everywhere, all the time.

Tuty Quinton: Fabulous evening at Los Amigos.

2005-2006 Chairs

Albuquerque, Spain Ramon Gonzales 873-0840 rdgonzales@msn.com

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan Richard Buckler 291-8175 rbuckler3@comcast.net

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Hualien, Taiwan Sidney Yen 296-7862 sidyen@unm.edu

Lanzhou, China David Hsi 345-3866 davidnkathyhsi@aol.com

Sasebo, Japan Kazumi Kawakubo 994-4692 kazumi.kawakubo@ eclipseaviation.com

Meet your Board: Dave Bagley, President

President of the Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation is Dave Bagley. Born in New Jersey, he received his degree from the University of Eastern New Mexico. He came to Albuquerque in 1972 when he was hired by the Atomic Energy Commission; and remained in the area ever since, retiring in 1997. Dave is a current hot air ballon pilot. In 1989 he went to Saga, Japan with a ballon crew from Canada to participate in the World Balloon Championship. Before departing, Dave inquired of Albuquerque City Hall about a sister city in Japan. Arrangements were made for Dave and a cocrew member to visit Sasebo.

They were treated very well. Upon his return to NM, Dave joined Albuquerque Sister Cities. The next year, Albuquerque hosted SCI International convention. Dave arranged for all international visitors to receive balloon flights. Mike Michnovicz, then President of ASCF, called Dave the "balloon meister." Dave went on to serve as treasurer for 5 years and then 1st vice president when Betty-Mae Hartman was president. He has been president since 2004. Dave resides in Rio Rancho as well as his son-inlaw,daughter-in-law Gabriel. his 11 year old grandson. Dave is one of the 15 volunteers on the "Friends of Rio Rancho Open Space." This non-profit group focuses on restoring the Rio Rancho Bosque. Dave loves to travel and to go camping in his poptop, and one of these days he might learn how to fish.



June 30,2006 - July 6, 2006

THE TRICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



"Welcome Sister Cities" read the sign in the special reception room at the airport. As each group arrived at Sunport, they were warmly greeted and then taken to their place of stay or to an activity.

The first to arrive were seven weary travelers from **Ashgabat**, **Turk**-

menistan; landing about 4:00 AM on Friday June 30, 2006. They were greeted with flowers. In need of rest having traveled 36 hours (Ashgabat to Istanbul to New York to Las Vegas to Albuquerque) and their host families (Dana and Bette Davis, Richard Buckler, Sally-Alice Thompson, Tatiana Vetrinskaya) were happy to oblige.

That night, the Don & Amelia Myer hosted a buffet dinner/reception for the Turkmen. Several Albuquerque Sister City board members attended and had an opportunity to visit with the first time visitors to the USA. Don Myers is leaving mid-July for Turkmenistan to be Peace Corps Director there. The leader of the delegation was Ashyrmurat Karayev. He is the deputy mayor of Ashgabat. Kurban Akgaev, also representing the city of Ashgabat is responsible for construction in the city. Avez Rizaev, a businessman and part owner of a construction company that builds apartments is a former government employee, having helped to build the Ashgabat airport. Aygozel Bekmiyeva is a lovely young woman who works in sales for Turkish airlines. The two musicians were Nurmyrat Nuriyev and Svetlana Naubatova. Nurmurat, a professional musician, plays several instruments (dutar, a two stringed national instrument; tuiduk, a flute-like instrument; and gopuz, a mouth harp). Svetlana is a professional pianist. She was wearing

the country's national dress and traditional jewelry (made of silver). Her hobby is dress designing. Vladimir Mskhildaze was there to translate. He came from Georgia, Russia 15 years ago and is now a US citizen. The other translator, Olgulijan Halliyeva is a native of Turkmenistan and a member of Albuquerque Sister Cities.

Sitting in the Myer's delightful backyard, Mr. Karayev compared plant life in Albuquerque to that in Ashgabat. He said that Ashgabat has pear, plum and peach trees, evergreens and vineyards. They also have the amaryllis flower. Yes, there are chili & bell peppers. Also, cactus - one kind is used for medicinal purposes - mixed with honey, it eases stomach problems. Beverages include beer, wine and vodka. A special drink, kaga (like brandy) is mixed with coffee. Karaev said that it was hotter in Ashgabat than in

Svetlana, Ashyrmurat and Aygozel



Ashyrmurat Karayev and Richard Buckler



Albuquerque. As a result of the extreme heat, the government has regulated working hours - 8 AM to noon, a 5 hour break, and then work till late evening. The government focuses on environmentalism parks, fountains, public squares. There are no major industries. The topography is similar to Albuquerque's - a lovely valley surrounded by the Kopedag Mountains. He said that Arab sheiks come there to hunt pheasant and other small game with their falons and hunting dogs. They ride around in jeeps so that when a falcon catches a bird, they can quickly retrieve it before the falcon eats it.

After a toast, Richard Buckler presented each member with a lovely photo album - the cover is a sandpainting done by a Navajo. The musicians performed several pieces for those in attendance. All wanted more but it was time for rest.

Nurmurat and Svetlana



Alburquerque Arrives

Friday, at 10:15 PM the 19 member Alburquerque, Spain delegation arrived at Sunport. Mayor Chavez, Fred Mondragon and Ramon Gonzales met the weary travelers and escorted them to the private reception room where other Albuquerque Sister Cities folk were waiting to greet them. As they munched on sandwiches and other appetizers and sipped soda and beer, lots of photos were taken, old friendships renewed and new ones were being formed. Although the delegation was staying at the Doubletree Hotel, they were assigned "escorts": Maria and Bob Rodriquez, Pauline and Bob Garcia, George Lopez and Polly Sisneros. The trip took 24 hours -First they drove from Alburquerque to Lisbon, Portugal and then flew to Newark, NJ, and onto Houston and finally Albuquerque.

Albuquerque Art and History Museum

After a good night's sleep, the Alburquerque group was ready to do some sightseeing. Together with the delegation from Ashgabat, Turkmenistan they arrived at the Albuquerque Art and History Museum at 9 AM. Martin Heinrich, President of the City Council was there to officially greet them. With interpreters in tow, they toured

the museum and learned much from the local residents accompanying them. The museum gave each person a lovely poster of the museum's recent African art exhibit.

While the Spanish enjoyed lunch and refreshment at Kelly's on Nob Hill, the Buckler's hosted a luncheon for the Turkmen. The food specialities included chocolate dipped strawberries and typical American ice cream bars. A flag from Turkmenistan was prominently displayed. Nurmyrat Nuriyev sang some opera arias. All agreed that he should be a part of Santa Fe's productions! What a treat!

Kirtland Air Force

A bus took the two delegations to Kirtland Air Force Base. While traveling Nurmyrat serenaded the group with familiar songs. All adorned themselves with bright yellow bandanas with the Sister Cities logo. What an easily recognizable and festive group! Once on the base, they enjoyed the hospitality of the VIP tent and then watched the Thunderbirds perform. What a show! Precision flying is their format. Several maneuvers were particularly crowd pleasing -Two planes flew directly at each other and at the last minute turned sideways to pass very close - four planes separated with two up and two down and a fifth flew in between. The Thunderbirds presented each visitor with a pin. For more pictures and information on the Thunderbirds, go to their website at www.airforce.com/thunderbirds.



Mayor Chavez of Albuquerque, NM & Mayor Espino of Alburquerque, Spain



Fred Mondragon & friends



Mayor Espino and his wife, Ramon Gonzales, and Pablo Fernandez.

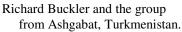


The escorts for the Spanish delegation



Ashyrmurat Karayev, Mayor Angel Vadillo Espino and Martin Heinrich.

The Alburquerque contingent in front of the Museum of Art & History.





The name Alburquerque dates from the time of Romans in Spain. Albaquercus, from the Latin albus quercus (white oak), was the name of a town. This is why the Alburquerque coat of arms displays a single white oak on a crimson background.



Mayor Chavez greets the folks from Ashgabat.



Juan Celestino from Alburquerque, a member of the Thunderbird team and Nurmyrat and Svetlana from Ashgabat.

Lanzhou and Sasebo Arrive

Fred Mondragon, representing Mayor Chavez, Airport Director Mike Rice & Lanzhou Chair David Hsi, met the five member Lanzhou, China delegation on Saturday shortly after noon. The guests were: Chen Baosheng, Senior Advisor & Secretary General, Lanzhou Municipal People's

Sister Cities see the Isotopes

With the conclusion of the airshow, the Ashgabat and Alburquerque groups boarded the bus for the Isotope Ballpark. Due to jet lag, the Lanzhou delegation headed back to the hotel for a quiet dinner and restful evening. Akira Mitsutake and his delegation opted for some quiet time also but joined the group at the ballpark later on.

Enroute to the ballpark, the bus stopped at Pat Hurley Park which overlooks all of Albuquerque - photo op!!!

At the ballpark, the group was situated in two VIP suites. While enjoying the hospitality of the suites and their amenities (great food and plenty to drink), they watched the Isotopes play



Nurmurat and Svetlana and the Thunderbirds.

Government, the leader of the delegation; Wu Shenhu, Director of Lanzhou Municipal Foreign Affairs Office; Huo Yujian, Chief of Division LM-DAO; Li Fujun, Vice Director, Lanzhou Municipal General Office; and Li Hulin, Director of Xigu District Municipal People's Government. While the airport personnel were retrieving the luggage for the delegation, the guests were treated to a welcome food and drink reception in a special room reserved for the occassion. After their checking in at the Doubletree Hotel, they were then escorted to Kirtland Air Force base where they joined the other groups.

At 2 pm, Akira Mitsutake,

Mayor of Sasebo, Japan; Shigeto Nomura, Section Chief, Planning and Coordination Department; Yoshihiro Ide, Sasebo City Councillor; and Tarou Nagamoto, Director of Planning and Coordination Department and the Sasebo delegation arrived at Sunport. Kazumi Kawakubo and Mayor Chavez welcomed them. Straight to Kirtland they went for the Airshow.

Mara Minwegen, a reporter from the Kirtland newspaper, interviewed each group. Col. Gregory W. Foraker, Nuclear Weapons Center commander, talked with the delegates from China during the show.

against the Memphis Redbirds. Each attendee received a magnet with the Isotope mascot on it. Mayor Chavez, as host of the occassion, was there to personally greet his guests. Mayors Vadillo and Mitsutake were given Isotope ball caps. During the fourth inning the scoreboard announced the presence of the Sister Cities group and the camera focused on them. Afterwards Mayor Chavez personally led the group on a tour of the ballpark facilities. The delegates were able to view the game from

various parts of the stadium, including the back field/garden area. Mayor Chavez explained what great efforet was needed to put the facility together. The tour ended at the gift shop. When the visitors went to check out, the mayor picked up the bill!! Upon their return to the suites, they found that the food and drinks had been refreshed. Although the Isotopes did not win, it was a delightful evening.



A Chat With Mayor Mitsutake

Being at the isotope game, the subject of baseball arose. When asked if baseball is played in Sasebo, Mayor Akira Mitsutake said that Sasebo has no professional teams but many companies have their own team. When he was a youth, he played baseball, being either the pitcher or the first baseman. Currently he enjoys playing golf. He was in Albuquerque 10 years ago, heading a delegation of 80. The delegation this time numbers 60, including 5 Taiko Drummers. Due to



Indian drummer



Mayors Mitsutake & Vadillo sport their Isotope ballcaps.

pressing obligations, he will have to depart on Tuesday morning before he gets a balloon ride. He also missed an opportunity on his last trip. When describing Sasebo, he said it was a seaport surrounded on 3 sides by mountains. Their main industries are shipbuilding and tourism (with over 4 million visitors annually.)

Top R: Indian dancers & guests from China & Turkmenistan.

Bottom right photo - Alburquerque delegation.



Left: Lanzhou delegation

Right: Mayor Angel Vadillo Espino and Tazbah McCullah (IPCC)

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Indian Pueblo Cultural Center

On Sunday morning, July 2, the group headed for the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. After a docent led tour of the exhibits, the group enjoyed seeing two Indian dances - the Rainbow Dance and the Buffalo Dance. A box lunch was offered in a private room. ASCF President, Dave Bagley joined them . Mayor Vadillo presented Tazbah McCullah, Marketing and Special Events Director with a gift - the crest of Alburquerque, Spain. A local artist, Stephanie Zuni from the Isleta Pueblo gave Mayor Vadillo a piece of pottery she had made. Stephanie is the lead cultural interpreter at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center.







Sunday Afternoon

After departing the Indian Cultural Center, the group headed for Old Town for some shopping. Randy Trask, International Trade Specialist with the City of Albuquerque was pressed into service to assist several women from Alburquerque, Spain in purchasing jewelery. Next stop - the National Hispanic Culture Center. There the group enjoyed a docent led tour. Isleta Pueblo came next with a visit to its church. Back to the hotel to prepare for the evening's festivities.

Hualien and Guadalajara Arrive

Fred Mondragon and Sidney Yen met the Hualien delegation at 2:30 at Sunport. The arriving guests were: Mrs. Su-Yuan Huang, wife of Mayor Tsai of Hualien; Mr. Chin-Cheng Tan, General Secretary of the City of Hualien; Mr. Ta-Chin Chiasng, Director of Hygiene Department; Mr. Chieh-Chih Lin, Director of Community Department; Mr. Wen-Fu Hsieh, Municipal Consultant; and Ms. Li-Ping Pen, staff. Mr. Ivan Chen of the Taipei economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles accompanied the group during their stay in Albuquerque.

The 9 member mariachi band from Guadalajara also arrived at the airport around 2:30 PM. Julia Stone and Fred Mondragon greeted them. Both groups enjoyed the hospitality of the special reception room before heading to their hotel.

Los Amigos Roundup

From 6 PM to 9 PM our visitors from Albuquerque, Ashgabat, Guadalajara, Hualien, Lanzhou, and Sasebo savored western food and the ever-flowing margaitas. Each guest received a colorful bandana festooned with chilis. There was lots of dancing - first by the guests and then in the entertainment. The Baila! Baila! dancers performed Mexican dances. After their colorful performance, many attendees posed for photos with the dancers. Next came the Aztec dancers. During one of their dances, the audience was invited to join in and they certainly did - with enthusiasm! As the evening came to a close, there was again music and dancing by the attendees. A good time was had by all.





Lanzhou guests & Kathy Hsi

Guadalajara Mariachi Band



Sidney Yen & David Hsi greet Hualien visitors.



Bartolome Gil Santacruz of Alburquerque greets the folks from Sasebo



Ride 'Em Cowboy! Hualien - Sasebo - Ashgabat - Ashgabat









Alburquerque Book Donation at UNM

Monday July 3 saw the Alburquerque delegation and friends meeting at the Center for Southwest Research and Special Collection at Zimmerman Library at the University of New Mexico. Bartolome Gil Santacruz was donating a book to the University. Frederico Lorca Garcia, a famous Spanish author/playwright and poet wrote some poems about his experience living in New York City 1929-1930. Eduardo Naranjo did illustrations to visually portray the poems. The book, printed special paper, measured two feet by two feet. It has a value between \$80,000-\$90,000. There were only 30 copies made before the plates were broken. This is # 29. Bartolome Gil Santacruz, owner of Los Ricos bottled water, is a collector of Spanish art and literature and he selected this work from his personal collection for donation.

Professor Tey Diana Rebolledo, PhD welcomed everyone. Ramon Gonzales introduced the dignitaries - Mayor Martin Chavez of Albuquerque, NM; Mayor Angel Vadillo Espino of Alburquerque, Spain; and Betty- Mae Hartman, past president of Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation. Mayor Vadillo spoke about the importance of the book donation. In 1983 Ramon Gonzales traveled

to Alburquerque, Spain and started the formal relationship between the two cities. In 2001 Ramon and Betty-Mae Hartman led the delegation to Alburquerque. Mayor Vadillo recognized the effort of Mayor Chavez and all who have made the sister city relationship successful. He said that this was not just an official friendship but also one of the heart. He has been so warmly received by the citizens of Albuquerque, NM. The emotional connection, one of the heart, is very important. This book is a thank you for that friendship. The book's value is not just economic, cultural and artistic but sentimental. It also strengthens the tie between UNM and Universidad de Extremadura.

Bartolome Gil Santacruz then presented the book, "Poeta en Nueva York." He took the time to show every page and illustration. The poems were surrealistic in style, as were the illustrations. Some of the poems were: "Being Alone in Columbia University," "El Rey de Harlem," "Calles and Suenos" and "Huida de Nueva York." Included in the book is a copy of the handwritten notes of the illustrator, stating how he

had interpreted the poems. The book was completed in 1989. Senor Gil also presented the library with the certificate of authenticity and letters from the illustrator and the Mayor of Alburquerque stating it was OK to bring the book to the USA. Michael T. Kelly, Director of the Center for Southwest Research thanked Senor Gil. He said that the Center was deeply indebted to Senor Gil and that the book will be housed with their special treasures. It will be made available to students, faculty and members of the community. Maria Teresa Marquez, Curator, Chicano, Hispano, Latino Research program and Associate Professor/UNM Regents Lecturer presented gifts from the Zimmerman Library to Mayor Vadillo and Senor Bartolome Gil Santacruz.



Bartolome Gil Santacruz, Mayor Chavez and Mayor Vadillo.







Left to Right:
Bartolome Gil Santacruz with book.
Maria Marquez and Mayor Vadillo
Bartolome Gil Santacruz and Maria Marquez

Sister Cities International 2006 Conference by Dave Bagley

Sister Cities was founded in 1956 by President Dwight Eisenhower, who believed that peace in our world could be achieved by person-to-person contacts. This year was its 50th Anniversary, and they wanted to make sure it was an event to remember.

From Albuquerque, Betty-Mae Hartman, Richard Buckler, Ramon Gonzales, and I represented ASCF. The conference was held in Washington, D.C., headquarters of SCI. While D.C. isn't known for its vineyards and quiet vistas, it excels in sightseeing and museums. Several of us arrived early to enjoy the Smithsonain museums. Admission is free to the Smithsonian as well as the plentiful monuments and most other places of interest. The Metro serves to connect much of the downtown area with outlying communities and is relatively inexpensive. Security has been beefed up everywhere, and virtually every building has an entry screening process, and concrete structures made to look like enormous flower pots.

The Conference started on Wednesday afternoon with a somewhat confused registration process, made more difficult by long lines of delegates waiting for ID tags to be printed and missing conference materials like meal tickets. My conference bag contained a single sheet of paper!

Thursday morning the Opening Ceremony got under way, and we listened to several presentations by speakers including one by Mary Jean Eisenhower, granddaughter of President Eisenhower. She is the President of People To People International, Inc. She told us of her meeting with the son of Nikita Krushchev and found him not nearly as imposing as she expected. The afternoon was planned with Capitol Hill visits to our Congressional representatives of our respective states. Congresswoman Heather Wilson and Senator Pete Domenici had each agreed to meet with half of our delegation. Ramon and Richard headed to Ms. Wilson's office, and managed to have a brief

meeting with her, though most of their encounter was with her staff. Betty-Mae and I walked to Pete's office and learned that he was "down on the floor;" so we met with a staff member. She listened to our plea for additional funding for SCI, but was noncommital as to whether any could be appropriated for our parent organization. Ms. Wilson's office was more direct with a flat "NO." By the time we returned to the hotel, we were hot and tired from the steamy temperatures outside. Later in the afternoon we listened to a poorly attended candidate's forum for Board of Directors, followed by a nice reception, hosted by the Hyatt Hotel. Free food always brings out the crowd, and the hotel's only ballroom was packed. After an hour or so, many folks had left, with the remaining delegates having plenty to eat. Drinks, however, were all no-host. Entertainment was provided by musicians who make their living in the Metro.

Friday started with a Diplomatic breakfast and excellent presentations by Dina Habib Powell, Assistant Secretary of State for Education and Cultural Affairs, and Her Excellency Barbara Masekela, Ambassador of South Africa. SCI had invited President Bush as the key note speaker for the Presidential luncheon, but he was busy elsewhere. Norman Mineda was also invited to speak but he had just resigned as Secretary of Transportation. The actual speaker was Dearborn, MI Mayor Michael Guido. The evening event was a visit to foreign embassies. Each of our 1,200 delegates had a choice of one embassy to visit. I chose the Japanese Embassy, and was impressed with their gracious accomodation of our late arrival. The grounds and buildings of the embassy compound were spacious and nicely appointed, reflecting the careful design of gardens and furnishings. A lovely selection of food and

drink was provided for all, and we all had an opportunity to visit the nearby formal teahouse for a tour and brief history. Betty-Mae went to the Russian Embassy. She found their building beautiful, the vodka great and the food selection sumptious. Ramon enjoyed the wine at the Italian Embassy.

The final day began with elections to the Board of Directors. Fortunately, the voting delegates elected a second foreign representative to the Board, and SCI is now able to hear voices from outside our shores. From there we attended a Musical Tribute to Citizen Diplomats, hosted by Fort Lauderdale, FL, the 2007 venue for the SCI conference. John McCutcheon was the talented emcee and musician for the event. Awards for Overall programs, Innovation for Arts & Culture, Humanitarian Assistance, Sustainable Development, and Youth & Education were made. That evening the gala event was held at the nearby National Building Museum, and sponsored by Stone Garden Vineyards, a California winery. We were greeted outside by the Regensburg, Germany band and dancers, and escorted into the reception area for appetizers. Dinner was a formal affair, followed by NBC News Presidental Historian Michael Beschloss, who delivered interesting tidbits about several of our presidents. Music and dancing by the Doc Scantlin orchestra kept the young at heart rocking late into the night. A superb finish to the 2006 con-

All conference attendees received a hardcover book featuring SCI's 50 years of activity.

The volunteer spirit is an inherent part of our American tradition. It is moreover, one of the foundation stones in the structure of our democracy, for the spirit of true voluntary service can exist only in a land of free men.

> President Harry Truman May 21, 1952



Dave and Past SCI President Glen Gray

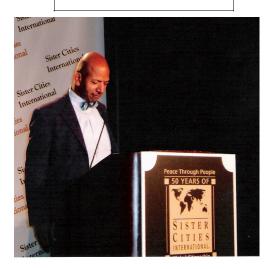


SCI Executive Director Tim Honey

Albuquerque delegates at breakfast



DC Mayor Anthony Williams



NM delegation at Senator Pete Domenici's of-



Alburquerque luncheon

A special luncheon for the Alburquerque delegation and friends was held at the Doubletree hotel. All enjoyed the salad bar and the delectable cooked-to-order pasta bar. Carol Dawley was seated with the two musicians from Alburquerque and with George Lopez as translator, they had a delightful conversation. Juan Refolio Sandoval is a singer but a vaquero by trade - a "singing cowboy!" Martin Rabazo Mendez plays the guitar and is a fireman by profession. As they were eating, the talk turned naturally to food. To drink with their meals, the Spanish prefer wine or beer. Iced tea is just not "done." Coffee, served strong and in small cups comes with dessert. Although there are peppers in Alburquerque, there is no chili. Beef is raised for consumption but pork and fish are more popular. They have garbanzo beans and frijoles as well as corn and tomatoes lots of tomatoes! Some of their fruits are apples, oranges, pears, and strawberries. In the summer the wine is light but in the winter, it is "heavier." Juan works on a finca/ranch where cattle are raised for breeding. There are separate fincas for dairy and breeding bulls for bullfights. Juan said that on the finca where he works there are about 600 cows (vacas) but just a few bulls as a bull can service about 30 cows. The cattle eat a special mixture in the winter but in the warmer months, they graze in the pasture. On pig farms, the animals are raised on acorns.

Martin talked about being a fireman - they are trained first to save lives and then the buildings/houses. The firemen work closely with the ambulances Martin then talked

about migration of the citizens of Alburquerque. During the 1960's folks migrated from the smaller towns to the big cities. They are now returning to the smaller towns - the wealthy ones that own ranches, that is. The poor are still remaining in the big cities. People also migrated to Germany to find work and have become German citizens.

All at the luncheon said they were looking forward to hearing Juan and Martin perform in the "World Concert" the next day.



L. to R.: Juan Refolio Sandoval-George Lopez -Martin Rabazo Mendes

Santa Fe

While the Alburquerque group was spending the morning at UNM, the other groups visited Santa Fe - strolling downtown, visiting the old church, and souvenir shopping. A box lunch was served at Fort Marcy Park.

Being small in number, the Lanzhou delegation all fit in a van and thus traveled separately from those on the bus. Once in Santa Fe, two persons from the Santa Fe Sister City organization met them. (Note: These two are on the commit-

tee for a twinning between Santa Fe and a city in China.) They toured New Mexico State Capitol, the main plaza, and saw the mysterious staircase in the Loretto Chapel. Canyon Road was the next stop - to see the art galleries. Gerard Peters is the one where they spent the most time. Although a box lunch in Fort Marcy Park was planned, time constraints had them chowing down in the van on their way back to Albuquerque as they had a scheduled meeting with Albuquerque's City Council.

Japanese Garden Dedication

The Dedication of the Sasebo Japanese Garden in the Albuquerque Biopark began at 5:30 with the VIP dinner for the visiting mayors and the City Council. The many other invited guest started arriving about 6 PM for the ceremony. As they strolled the lovely grounds, walking towards the big tent, they enjoyed the delightful floral ambience. Arrivees were greeted with appetizers of fresh fruit, cheese and crackers to the sounds of the Taiko Drummers.

The yucca, called "Our lord's candles," was selected as the New Mexico State Flower in 1927 by school children.

Taiko Drummers

Guadaljara Mariachi Band - visitors at the ceremony



Dedication Ceremony

Mayor Martin J. Chavez said Albuquerque cherishes its international character. Mayor Akira Mitsutake of Sasebo mentioned that this year is the 40th anniversary of its sister city relationship with Albuquerque, NM. The Japanese Garden is a symbol of the friendship between the two cities. He then presented a special carving to the mayor.



Multí Treasures Pagoda Pagoda

The Mikawachi Ware pagoda is 24.8 inches in height, 13.8 inches in length and 13.8 inches in width. The artist, Mr. Masanori Fukutomo is considered a living treasure in Japan. With a value of \$15,000, the pagoda will be on display at the Albuauerque Art Museum. The same gift was presented to the Emperor's Palace in Japan.

The Taiko Drummers then performed two songs. Next, the Japanese Consul from Denver, Colorado thanked all for their time and commitment to making the garden a reality and to keeping the sister city affiliation strong. Martin Heinrich, President of Albuquerque's City Council spoke next. Following him was Toru Tanaka, the designer of the garden. He explained how it will look when completed - all 3.5 acres. Kazumi Kawakubo thanked everyone for coming. She recognized Ruth Hashimoto who started the sister city relationship and then invited all to go and ring the bell. The first to do so were Ruth Hashimoto and the first exchange student to

Kazumi also invited the guests to visit the new koi exhibit.

Sasebo.



Japanese Bell Tower



Mayor Chavez, Fred Mondragon, Dave Bagley, and Karaev Ashir-Murat from Ashgabat







Mayor Chavez Meets With The Sister Cities

While everyone enjoyed the food and music offerings on the Festival Green, Mayor Chavez received each sister city group individually in the Ceremonial Garden. At each session, the groups toasted each other with New Mexico champagne and exchanged pleasantries and gifts. The City of Albuquerque presented each delegation with a Nambe plate and a framed Tricentennial poster. ASCF gave each delegation a Tricentennial book.

Sasebo gave Mayor Chavez and Fred Mondragon each a kimono and Mayor Chavez received a small porcelain bowl.

When Ashgabat visited with the Mayor, they read a latter from the Mayor of Ashgabat warmly greeting Mayor Chavez and congratulating the city on its 300th birthday. They presented the Mayor with a painting of a famous race horse (he is on their flag), a book about Turkmenistan and a beautiful woven carpet. Nurmurat Nuriyev played the tuidak for the group. Mayor Chavez commented on how lovely the music was.

The Hualien delegation presented Mayor Chavez with a gift bag containing a unique sculpture

made of stone and metal, a tie, a necklace with the precious rose stone, a scarf, books about Taiwan and Hualien, & a music CD.

When Alburquerque visited with Mayor Chavez, they presented him with a large "R" since Alburquerque, Spain has one more "r" than Albuquerque, New Mexico. They also gave him a large framed picture of the 13th century Castillo de Luna.

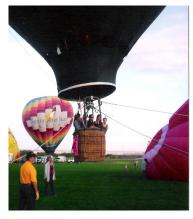
Hot Air Balloon Rides

Rise and Shine EARLY!! At 6 AM on Tuesday July 4th all gathered at Balloon Fiesta Park for hot air balloon rides. The mayors and dignitaries of the visiting sister cities received free floating rides and the others all enjoyed tethered rides. Comments on the flight: Mucho Mucho - Would have liked to go higher and have more time in the balloon - Very good - Great but not enough - Once was enough since afraid of heights - Threatened to cut the tether rope so could soar freely. Afterwards all gathered in a circle around Dave Bagley. He recited the Balloonist Prayer and then toasted all with champagne.

BALLOONIST PRAYER

May the winds welcome you with softness. May the sun bless you with his warm hands. May you fly so high and so well that God joins you in laughter

And sets you gently back into the loving arms of Mother Earth.



Chihuahua youth enjoying a ride.

Hualien Luncheon

At noon, Mr. Ivan Chen hosted a luncheon at the ABC Chinese Restaurant. Besides the delegation, guests included 2 past ASCF Presidents (Margaret Dike and Betty-Mae Hartman) and current ASCF President Dave Bagley; Bill Hume, Director of Policy and Strategic Planning for the State of New Mexico and some members of the New Mexico Chinese Association. One of the Hualien guests, Li-Ping Peng ("Apple") said it took 13 hours for the group to reach Albuquerque. They flew from Taiwan to Los Angeles to Las Vegas to NM. It is her first time to the USA. She likes it here in Albuquerque, saying that the weather here is much more comfortable than in



Visitors from Ashgabat taking photos from their perspective.



Chen Baosheng from Lanzhou liked the balloon basket at the Albuquerque International Balloon Museum.

Las Vegas. She said that Hualien is close to the ocean but has granite mountains on its landside. The city is famous for its marble (comes in many different colors but mostly gray, white and dark green) which is used for decorative purposes in furniture and dishes.

Ivan Chen spoke on behalf of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles.. Each luncheon guest received a pen that had a pullout map of Taiwan inside it. One side was the map and the other had photos of Taiwan.

Guests also received a "Taiwan"

Ashgabat Luncheon

Dana and Bette Davis hosted a lovely sit-down luncheon for the Ashgabat delegation. The Davis' backyard abuts to a golf course which prompted the question of golf in Ashgabat - The answer is no. Due to dry conditions and lack of ways to irrigate the greens, there are no golf courses. The delegation presented Richard Buckler with a wonderful outfit and their host Dana Davis with a hat and shirt.



Left to right: Richard Buckler, Ashyrmurat Karayev and Dana Davis

On July 4, 1882, Park Van Tassel made the first balloon ascension in Albuquerque. The gas balloon was named "City of Albuquerque."

magnet. The explanation is: The "T" represents the sheltering eaves of Taiwan in a symbol of the island as a warm home. The "a" represents the host of this home, ardently welcoming travelers to Taiwan. The "i" is the traveler who has come to visit and is being received by the host. The "w" is the two people, host and visitor, shaking hands and greeting each other happily. The second "a" and the "n" represent the two sitting together, drinking tea and chatting casually. In the upper right corner is an image of the island that expresses Taiwan's earnest and sincere desire to "Touch Your Heart."

Hualien Lunch Cont.

Hualien's mayor's wife, Susan Huang spoke - she was happy to come to Albuquerque to be a part of its 300th celebration. Special thanks and welcome to all in attendance especially Bill Hume from the Office of the Governor, Taipei Economic Cultural Office representative, Dave Bagley, Betty-Mae Hartman, Margaret Dike . She welcomed all to come to Hualien next year to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Hualien and Albuquerque - so get your passports now!!! Sidney Yen said how happy he was to have the Hualien delegation here. In mid-June he received a phone call at 2 am waking him up with happy news. The Mayor's wife would be leading a delegation from Hualien to Albuquerque.

William Hsieh described Taiwan - a small island with a population of 23 million - mostly native Taiwanese and Chinese. Hualien's population is 350,000. Near the city of Hualien is Taroko Gorge - a cut in the mountains due to an ancient earthquake. Hualien has springs of natural water, marble and precious rose stone. Because there is no heavy indus-

try, Hualien has fresh air; and the seafood is abundant due to Hualien being on the coast. Mr. Hsieh invited all to come to Hualien.

Group photos were taken under the arch entry to the private dining room. The arch as a doorway shape is meant to bring harmony into a room.

Note: The delegation was wearing bright flowered shirts because Hualien is known as the "Flower City."



Li-Ping Peng and the pen with a Taiwan map.

In 1966, I-25 and I-40 were completed through Albuquerque.

The Zia design on the NM flag is a modern interpretation of an ancient symbol of a sun design inspired by Zia Pueblo pottery. Red and gold were the colors of Queen Isabel which was brought to NM by the Spanish.



Mayor Blanco of Chihuahua, Mexico; Ana Luisa, his wife; and Alma Solis, Chair of Chihuahua Committee.



The Hualien Delegation

July 4th Celebration at Balloon Fiesta Park

Everyone started gathering at the mayor's VIP tent about 3:30 pm. The spacious tent offered shade from the hot sun as well as many cooling fans. There was plenty of food and drink.

Mayor Blanco and his wife Ana Luisa shared a table with Alma Solis, Chihuahua Committee Chair and Jesus Avalos, Cultural Attache. Mayor Blanco said that he arrived in Albuquerque July 3 about 4 PM on his private plane. The Chihuahua Choir had come by bus, traveling 8 hours. Mayor Blanco took the time to describe Chihuahua: The county of Chihuahua is 10,000 square kilometers with a population of 800,000. It has an archaeological site - for the Paqueme Indians. In the city of Chihuahua itself there are caverns similar to those in Carlsbad, NM but no bats! Copper Canyon is located in the State of Chihuahua but not the city, being 3 hours away. People can ride the CHP train through the canyon - it's a most picturesque ride. The main industries of Chihuahua are high tech electronics, automotive, aerospace and a large regional medical center. There are 7 universities located in Chihuahua. The mayor invited all to come to Chihuahua to enjoy what many sights it has to offer. In September Alma Solis is planning a special Albuquerque Sister Cities visit. In November there will be a balloon fiesta. And, in October 2009, to celebrate Chihuahua's 300th birthday, there will be an artists festival. On a personal note, the mayor and his wife have twin daughters - Anna Christina and Isabela age six. Although the girls were not with them, they were not far from their hearts and the proud parents bought many souvenirs for them.

The mayor said that he was elected for a 3 year term but in Chihuahua the position is for one term only. He is a businessman (owning a restaurant) by profession and being mayor is his first encounter with politics. It probably is not his last.

World Concert

From 4 PM to 8 PM, a multi-cultural experience was presented simultaneously on two stages - the Sister Cities Stage and the Main Stage It featured performers from participating Sister Cities with local cultural acts, creating a internationally diversified program.

The first to perform on the big stage was the Guadalajara mariachi band. They were followed by the 100 member Chihuahua Choir and then the Taiko Drummers from Sasebo.



Guadalajara Mariachi



Chihuahua Choir

At 7 PM on the Sister Cities Stage the musicians from Ashgabat, Turkmenistan performed. While Svetlana Naubatova played the piano, Nurmyrat Nuriyev played the dutar and tuiduk.





On the smaller Sister Cities Stage, the Alburquerque musicians performed first. While they sang and played the guitar, several Alburquerque visitors danced on the grass.



The Albuquerque Chinese
Choir followed the Spanish
musicians. A young lady
played the guceng, an ancient
Chinese string instrument.
The lead director, Chaco Ling
sang two solos. She had a
beautiful voice. Born in Taiwan, she received her musical
training in Taiwan and then
Salzburg, Austria. She has
worked with the Santa Fe
opera. The coed choir also
performed.

Right top - the guceng Right bottom - Chinese Choir



Juan Refolio Sandoval and Martin Rabazo Mendez from Alburquerque, Spain.





All groups were warmly received and encouraged to do encores. Later in the evening Linda Ronstadt performed several songs in Spanish. The evening culminated in colorful fireworks.

Far Left - Svetlana Naubatova relaxes before her performance. Immediate Left - Nurmyrat Nuriyev plays the tuiduk. Present at the festivities was Miguel Angel Fong Gonzales, Director of Turism for Guadalajara. He said that the 9 mariachi muscians had come from Guadalajara specifically to help celebrate Albuquerque's 300th. He took the time to describe the wonders of Guadalajara and invite everyone to come see them.

Lanzhou Visits Intel

Wednesady, July 5, at 10 AM the Lanzhou delegation traveled to Intel. Scott J. Stallia, Community Relations Specialist welcomed the group and escorted them to a meeting room where Tim G. Hendry, Vice President TMG Fab 11X Plant Manager and Youren Xu, PhD., Lab manager New Mexico Material Lab joined them. Here they explained, in Chinese, about Intel. Intel is the world's leading innovator in advanced silicon technology. It was founded in 1968. Today approximately there are 100,000 employees with over 450 products and services and 294 worldwide offices and facilities. Some of the locations of Intel's fabrication and assembly/test plants are: Costa Rica, Malaysia, Ireland, Israel, Phillippines, and China (Chengdu and Pudong).

A walking tour ensued. There is an Automated Material Handler System (AMHS) which handles the wafers and sees to their transportation from area to area. FOUPs (Front Opening Unified Pod) can be seen overhead. Each box the FOUP carries contains 25 wafers and weighs 40 pounds. Safety is #1. All new

employees are required to have a week of safety training and then safety courses are ongoing throughout their employment.

Intel's clean room is a class 1 clean room. This means 1 particle per cubic foot. Normal air has 20,000 particles per cubic foot. The clean rooms had waffle floors. Air handlers in the ceiling pushed air down through the floor to be cleaned. To prepare for entry to the gowning room to go to a clean room, a person first dons a hairnet and booties over their shoes. In the gowning room, one puts on a full "bunny suit" complete with gloves, a hood over the hairnet and safety goggles. makeup or hair gel is allowed; and one can only use scentless deodorant. The last thing a person does before entering the clean room is to have a drink of water to wash out the mouth as there is a lot of bacteria in the mouth.

After the tour, the group went to Chow's Asian Bistro for lunch. The Lanzhou delegation presented Tim Hendry with some books and a CD about Lanzhou. One of the pictures in the books showed

guests included Mayor Martin Chavez, 2 members of Santa Fe Sister Cities, Chaco Ling & other members of the Chinese Chorus, Albuquerque Lodge of the Chinese American Citizen Alliance (CACA) members, and of course Albuquerque Sister Cities members. Mayor Chavez mentioned that he was mayor when Albuquerque and Lanzhou first signed to be sister cities. Today when he met with the delegation at 2 PM, they worked on future student exchanges. Chen Baosheng, the delegation leader, said he was glad to be a part of Albuquerque's 300th

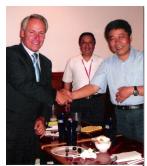
252 bamboo waterwheels on the Yellow River; thus giving Lanzhou the name, "The Capital of the Waterwheel." The waterwheel is an ancient irrigation tool. Tim also received a beautifully etched plate. Tim then presented each guest with a gift bag containing Intel items - a polo shirt, a pen, a "bunny suit" doll and a water bottle.



Tim Hendry and Chen Baosheng



celebration. Dave Bagley, ASCF President, said he was pleased that 7 of our sister cities were present to celebrate the 300th. And, by the way, Lanzhou and Ashgabat are sisters cities to each other. The delegation presented a beautiful painting with Chinese calligraphy mentioning sister cities. This will hang in the Albuquerque Convention Center. The evening ended with Director Wu playing the harmonica and the viewing of CD pictures of Lanzhou. The next day they departed about noon. Just when they were about th board, Mayor Chavez & CEO Perlman arrived to say goodbye.





Fond Farewells

Alburquerque, Spain and Ashgabat, Turkmenistan delegation left early Wednesday July 5 morning.

At 6 pm July 5 there was a lovely farewell dinner for the Hualien delegation at the China King Super Buffet. It was hosted by the New Mexico Chinese Association. The delegation departed Albuquerque early July 6.

Also at 6 pm on July 5 there was a dinner for the Lanzhou delegation at the Evergreen Buffet. Some of the distinguished

Upcoming Events

August 15: Registration deadline for Helmstedt trip.

September 4-9 Trip to Chihuahua, Mexico

September 20 ASCF Board Meeting

October 15-29 Trip to Helmstedt, Germany

October 28 State Sister Cities meeting

Meeting Location: The ASCF Board meets at the Compass bank at 505 Marquette NW on the 14th floor. It meets the 3rd Wednesday every other month at 5:15 PM.

Thank You Julia

Julia Stone is stepping down as chair of the Guadalajara Committee. She will be greatly missed. Her enthusiasm and detailed planning have richly enhanced the activities between Albuquerque and Guadalajara. "I have enjoyed my time as chairperson and have met wonderful people from different parts of the USA and other countries. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent sister cities as chairperson for Guadalajara."

Julia joined Albuquerque Sister Cities about four years ago at the behest of Myriam Munoz, then the chair of Guadalajara. In October 2003, Guadalajara invited delegations from all their sister cities for an offical visit. Julia organized and led the group of 32 from Albuquerque. While there they met representatives from Italy, Japan, Spain, Oregon, California, Arizona, and Missouri. In October 2005 and March 2006, groups from Albuquerque traveled Guadalajara. Although business was the prime emphasis of both trips, culture and education were also a focus.

Julia, now retired from Lovelace, still remains active. She works as a docent at the Hispanic Cultural Center and volunteers at the Barrett House. She also belongs to Las Mujeres, a woman's organization whose goals are awareness and scholarships for women returning to school.



Julia and Gary Stone

SISTER SCHOOLS

Albuquerque Academy is partnering with Colegio del Sagrado Corazon of Guadalajara, Mexico. Rolando R. Villegas, Chair of Academy's Language Dept. said that the 1st student exchange is this fall with 8 students coming to NM. In March 2007, Academy students will visit Colegio.

TRIP TO HELMSTEDT

Helmstedt, Germany has invited a group from Albuquerque to visit their city this coming October 2006. The delegation would depart Albuquerque October 15 and return October 29. The itinerary includes Helmstedt, Dresden, and other German cities as well as Prague. Cost of the tour is 1100 Euros (airfare not included). Deadline to sign up is August 15. Participants on this trip need to be able to walk a mile unassisted due to many sightseeing walking tours. Interested parties should contact Wolfram Krank, Helmstedt Chair, at 281-2080 or email at wkrank@aol.com.

TRIP TO CHIHUAHUA

September 4 - 9, 2006 is the date for a trip to Chihuahua. It will include Chihuahua, Copper Canyon and a trip on the CHE-PE train to El Fuerte Sinaloa. Cost of \$750 includes all transportation, hotels and some meals. Those interested should contact Almo Solis, Chihuahua Chair at 319-9718 or email her at:

almasolis5@hotmail.com

Chihuahua Parade

April 30, 2006 a group of 79 traveled from West Mesa High School in Albuquerque to Chihuahua to participate in the Children's Parade. Chihuahua hosted the students, band director and parents/chaperons for two days. This annual parade is 2 1/2 miles in length. All attendees were pleased to have the opportunity to participate in this event.

NM SPECIAL OLYMPICS

May 18 -20, 2006, a delegation from Chihuahua came to Albuquerque to participate in the 2006 Special Olympics New Mexico Summer Games. Alma Solis, Chihuahua Chair, welcomed the group and added to their adventure by taking them to the zoo and aquarium.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The membership Chair is saddened to report the passing of two long-time ASCF members: Mrs. Robert Stamm and past Mayor Harry Kinney.

New members:

Bill Nordyke - P.O. Box 16440 - Albuquerque, NM 87191 - 220-5739

Tom Maguire - 201 Marcy St. - Santa Fe, NM 87501



P.O. Box 26693 Albuquerque, NM 87125

Mailing Address Goes Here

ALBUQUERQUE SISTER CITIES FOUNDATION

