

Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

Summer 2015

OFFICERS:

President

Richard Buckler

291-8175

rbuckler3@comcast.net

1st V. President

Oguljan Young

803-0247

atamuradovna@yahoo.com

2nd V. President

Carol Dawley

883-9516

crdawley@juno.com

3rd V. President

Dave Bagley

771-3114

dave3114@gmail.com

Secretary

Mary Hope Buckler

291-8175

maryhope@comcast.net

Treasurer

Darlene Capshaw

967-7610

Darlene@redhorsebb.com

Newsletter Editor

Carol Dawley

883-9516 crdawley@juno.com

ASCF Holds Annual Meeting

On Sunday, June 14, 2015, about 80 persons attended the ASCF annual meeting at the Buffet King restaurant.

The focus was on the youth of our organization. Students going to our sister city, Sasebo, Japan, in 2015 performed a traditional Japanese dance. Two students from Mountain View Middle School, under the direction of their teacher, Ms. Kirby, did a robotic demonstration. Their robots followed a black line and when reaching a green line, stopped and fired a ping pong ball into a designated cup. All were amazed!

Door prizes were given which included two T-shirts whose logo was designed by the students going to Japan.

Election of ASCF officers was held with the following results: 2nd VP-Carol Dawley; 3rd VP-Dave Bagley; Secretary-Mary Hope Buckler and Treasurer-Darlene Capshaw. These positions are for one year, while the President and 1st VP positions are for 2 years and thus not up for election until 2016.



Sasebo, Japan Chair, Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman with Youth Ambassadors having just completed special symbolic Japanese dance at the annual meeting.



Russ Fisher-Ives, RoVoRAVE founder and Director of Global Programs, along with Pam Feather, RoVoRAVE V.P. take time at annual meeting to pose with Ms. Kirby (3rd from left) and two of her robotic students.

Lanzhou, China News

On April 25, 2015 a delegation from Lanzhou, China visited Albuquerque. ASCF hosted them for lunch at the Chopstix restaurant.

The 2015 Botball International/The Global Conference on Educational Robotics held competition in Albuquerque on July 7-11. Lanzhou sent one team (No.63 Middle School Team).



Ms. Kirby watching a robot in action.

From the President's Desk...

I love sunsets! And, Albuquerque has some of the best. But, take a look below at the sunset taken on the Zambezi River, separating Zambia from Zimbabwe, and just above Victoria Falls. The indigenous people call the Falls "Mosi-oa-Tunya" or "The Smoke That Thunders." You can hear the roar and see the water vapor from miles away.

The best time to see the Falls is during the peak rainy months (Feb—May). But, if looking for a combined tour of great Falls viewing and photo Safari adventure, June and July are the best. And, this was the time that our Lusaka co-chair Patrick Mapalo told us we must visit.

What a visit it was too! See the story later in this newsletter by member Chuck Larrabee, accompanied by many pictures. (For color pics, try downloading the newsletter from our website).

But, the most important benefit of a great trip are the friendships made along the way. This can be accomplished in many ways, but being invited into someone's home for a time of food and fellowship—well that's the real "Smoke that thunders." For when we return home, those memories, smiles, discussions continue to resonant in our souls.

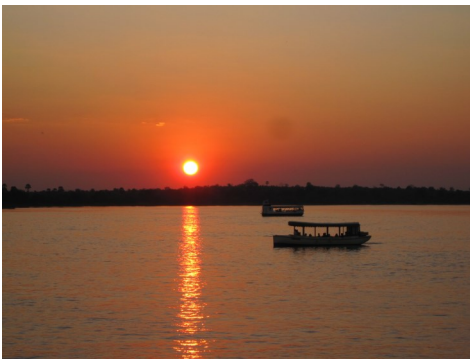
Special thanks thus goes to Patrick

Mapalo who helped those of us on the recent membership trip experience not only the sites and sounds of his homeland in Zambia, but also the warmth of his fellow-countrymen. Patrick's last name, Mapalo, means Blessing in Bemba, and we are certainly blessed as an organization to have families like the Mapalo's here in Albuquerque.

Now: a brief update from the 59th Sister Cities International Conference held in Minneapolis, July 16—18: Theme: Bridging Generations For Peace. The corresponding Youth Leadership Summit theme was: Peace through International Service. Keynote speakers included former Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura, Diplomatic Corps Panel, the entertaining Rudy Maxa (one of America's premier consumer travel experts), several panels discussing best practices for business, youth and adult exchanges, humanitarian outreach, disability international awareness, and partnering with like-minded organizations such as Kiwanis.

The Ruth Hashimoto award was won by Fred Blanton, Honorary SCI Board Member from the District of Columbia. Ruth's legacy lives on and next year Albuquerque will celebrate our 50th anniversary of our first twinning with Sasebo, Japan. Thank you, Ruth!

Richard



Above: Sunset over the Zambezi River—Livingstone, Zambia. Left: The Smoke That Thunders—Victoria Falls.



Committee Chairs:

Albuquerque, Spain
Dillon Fisher-Ives
321-1493 dfisherives@gmail.com

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
Oguljan Young
803-0247
atamuradovna@yahoo.com

Chihuahua, Mexico
Alma Solis
417-0525 almasolis5@hotmail.com

Guadalajara, Mexico
Jose Luis Cruz-Campa
915-760-3291
joecampa@yahoo.com
Helmstedt, Germany
Nathan Young
977-6033 nathanyoung@gmail.com

Hualien, Taiwan
Yu-Lin Shen
797-2648 shenyl@unm.edu

Lanzhou, China
Lin Ye
797-2209 lye@salud.unm.edu

Lusaka, Zambia
Patrick Mapalo 750-2702
patrickmapalo@gmail.com
Dr. Harold Bailey
baileyhb65a@hotmail.com

Rehovot, Israel
Shira Greenberg
Shira@keshetdance.org
224-9808

Sasebo, Japan
Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman
235-0597
kazumikawakubo@gmail.com

Youth
Hyunju Blemel
991-2112
hyunju3@hotmail.com

Mayor's Appointee:
Randy Trask, Encuentro President,
Manager: Albuquerque Bernalillo
International Trade Alliance:
randy@abctradealliance.com

Submitted by Oguljan Young

May 17-23, 2015, an ASCF delegation visited Ashgabat, Turkmenistan to celebrate not only Turkmenistan's Constitution Day and Day of Unity, but also to honor the 25th anniversary of our sister cities relationship.

The sister city relationship between Albuquerque and Ashgabat became official in 1990. Sally Alice Thompson played a vital role in making this important event happen.

Eight ASCF members comprised the delegation to Ashgabat. Committee Chair, Oguljan Young, led the group. The USA Embassy and Ashgabat's mayor's office provided logistical support during their stay in Turkmenistan. The group met with the mayor of Ashgabat, Mr. Rejpegeldi Nurmammedov; had presenta-

ASCF Members Celebrate 25 Years of Twinning in Ashgabat

tions and meetings with students and professors from two different universities; and had a wonderful Southwestern dinner reception at the residence of the USA Ambassador Mustard.

Alana McGrattan, a member of the delegation heads a sister libraries project with Ashgabat. She is currently Tribal Libraries Coordinator at the NM State Library. She had several meetings with Ashgabat and Mary librarians to share about how the Tribal Libraries program works with NM. The trip was a tremendous success and we hope to return to Ashgabat during the Asian Games in 2017.



Oguljan Young presents Nambe platter engraved in celebration of the 25th anniversary of Albuquerque-Ashgabat twinning to the Ashgabat Mayor Rejpegeldi Nurmammedov.



Our group enjoying a great lunch inside a yurt organized by the Open World program alumni who visited Albuquerque in 2011.



Our group participated in celebrations dedicated to Ashgabat Day on May 25, 2015.



Our group is met by the students of the International University before our presentation on sister city relationships.



Participants of the Ashgabat Day celebrations in national costumes.

ASCF and RovoRAVE

April 30– May 3 2015 Albuquerque hosted its annual RovoRAVE. Participants not only included students from the USA but foreign countries as well. A reception to welcome the attendees was held Thursday evening in the Convention Center. There members of ASCF could meet representatives from Japan; Mexico; Columbia, Czech Republic, Zambia and China. Some of the groups came from our specific sister cities in those countries.

Lusaka, Zambia, ASCF newest sister city, sent a group composed of 6 high school sophomore students and a lecturer from the University of Zambia. They stayed for approximately two weeks. Robotic activities consumed the first week. The second week they were also very busy—Explora Museum; BioPark; trip to Santa Fe; Cliff's Amusement Park and shopping. Many thanks to Chuck Larabee, John Feather and Richard Buckler for providing transportation; Martha Mapalo, Al & Cathy Ortiz, Pam & John Feather and Richard and Mary Hope Buckler for home hosting; Midge Nicholson, Buckler and Ortiz families for group dinners; and Yvette Bell of African Affairs for making arrangements and hosting a lunch.

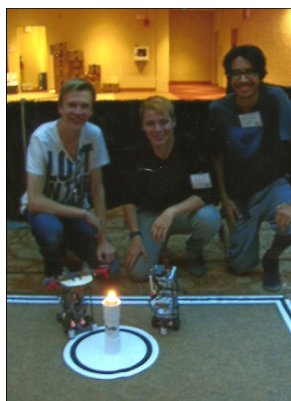
Guadalajara, Mexico, another ASCF sister city, also sent a delegation. This group consisted of Adriana Parra, chair of the Albuquerque/Guadalajara committee in Mexico, Roberto, a business man and several students. The ASCF members had the opportunity to meet the visitors at Pars Cuisine Restaurant over appetizers. Those that stayed for dinner not only enjoyed a delicious meal BUT some belly dancing as well. Guadalajara is looking to host its version of RovoRAVE this coming fall.



T-shirt logo designed for Sasebo trip, for purchase in blue, white, or black. Contact Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman for more details.



Guadalajara, Mexico delegation enjoying Pars Restaurant.



Students from Amy Biehl High School Albuquerque practice their fire-fighting robot.



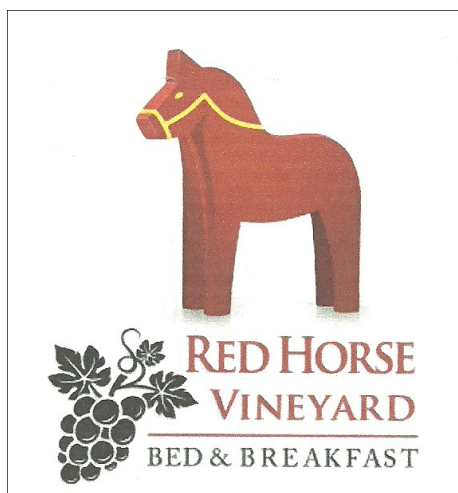
Vic Dawley from ASCF welcomes teachers from Juarez, Mexico at the RovoRAVE reception April 30.



Right: Students from Kaga Japan at the RovoRAVE reception.



Enjoying the RovoRAVE reception are L to R: Adriana Parra, Guadalajara's Sister Cities Chair; Richard Buckler; 2 students; Francisco Castaneda, President Cluster de Robotica Mexico; 3 students; Pam and John Feather.



On June 12, 2015 there was a ground breaking for the Red Horse Vineyard bed & Breakfast. At 2155 Londene Lane, SW Albuquerque, owned by the Londene extended family. Quite a few persons were in attendance including ASCF members and several Chambers of Commerce. The official opening is planned for the end of this September. The Londene farm has seen many a sister cities party, and the B&B will continue that tradition. For more info: www.redhorsebb.com

Below: Riders from the nearby Orona Ranch were present at the ground breaking ceremony. Orona's Ranch will be offering trail rides to folks at the Red Horse B&B followed by a chuck wagon dinner back at the B & B.



Above: L to R: Darlene Capshaw (daughter); Lauren Capshaw (granddaughter); Carl Londene (father), Denise Baker (daughter) and representatives from Dreamstyle Remodeling.



On June 6, 2015, Kimberly Buckler, daughter of Mary Hope and Richard Buckler was married to Adam Marti. L to R: Richard Buckler, Kim and Adam Marti.

Annual Membership Dues

June is the month to renew our Annual membership Dues. Please check the mailing label on the front of this newsletter to see when your membership expires. If the label shows 6/30/14 or earlier, please take a few minutes and renew your membership. By mail, fill out the application on the last page of this newsletter and mail it with your payment. For online renewal, simply access our membership web page at <http://albuquerque-sister-cities.org/membership/start.php>. The process is easy, takes just a few minutes and payment is through PayPal. Note that you do not have to belong to PayPal and there is no service charge to you. Questions or comments, please contact Dave Bagley, Membership Chair, tel. 771-3114, email membership@albuquerque-sister-cities.org.

Want to receive your ASCF newsletter by email?? Contact Dave Bagley, Membership Chair with your email.

Albuquerque-Lusaka Twinning

By: Chuck Larrabee

Lusaka, Zambia became Albuquerque's 10th Sister City at a signing ceremony on the grounds of Lusaka City Hall on June 24th. The final documents establishing the sister city relationship were signed by His Worship Lusaka Mayor George Nyendwa; U.S. Ambassador to Zambia Eric Schultz and Gary Oppedahl, Director of Albuquerque's Economic Development Department, representing Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry.

Mayor Nyendwa hosted the grand celebration of the signing ceremony. Zambia's Army Brass Band played the USA and the Zambian national anthems and native dancers performed. And all enjoyed the barbecue.

A memo of understanding between Albuquerque and Lusaka was signed in Albuquerque in late 2014 during a visit by Lusaka officials; and a first step in cultural connections was made with the visit of six high school students and their university mentor to the annual RovoRAVE competition last May. The day after the signing, Albuquerque Mayor Berry issued a statement praising the sister city relationship. "This is a historic occasion for Albuquerque. We finally have an African Sister City and couldn't be happier that it is the capital of Zambia."

The new-found connection between the two cities will provide rich opportunities for cultural and economic ties between them. In addition to exploring business possibilities with the American Chamber of Commerce in Zambia, members of the Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation (ASCF) met privately with Mayor Nyendwa, the head of the Ministry of Local Government and Housing, leaders from the Lusaka police and fire departments, and Deputy Minister of the State House, Mulenga J.C. Sata, Member of Parliament and son of Zambia's former president. On the cultural side, members of the ASCF delegation toured cultural sites in Lusaka including the Zambia National Museum, an orphanage, and the State House. They also visited Kabwata Cultural Village where tourist gifts may be purchased. Dave Bagley, ASCF past president, hosted a robotics demonstration for students at Makeni West Wing School.

Following the official visit to Lusaka, the ASCF group traveled to Livingstone, Zambia to visit Victoria Falls, one of the seven natural wonders of the world. They also participated in several safari adventures to observe wildlife in national parks and game preserves. They met with His Worship Milford Maambo, Mayor of Livingstone. Livingstone is a sister city to Santa Fe.

ASCF participants in the Zambian trip were Gary Oppendahl (representing Mayor Berry), Director of Albuquerque's Economic Development Department and his wife Beverly; ASCF President Richard Buckler; Yvette Kaufman-Bell (representing New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez), Executive Director of the New Mexico Office of African American Affairs; Randy Trask, Manager of the Albuquerque-Bernalillo Trade Alliance; Dave Bagley, past ASCF president; Devont'e Watson (representing Albuquerque's Martin Luther King Center and the Trade Alliance); LaSheba Bowens; Gretchen Chapman-Werner and Chuck Larrabee. Patrick Mapalo, co-chair of the ASCF Lusaka committee made all the arrangements for the trip and his untiring efforts were greatly appreciated by the ASCF visitors.

"Lusaka is a free and friendly city" Mayor Nyendwa said during the visit to his office. "You are welcome here." The ASCF team felt that the people of Lusaka and all of Zambia were extremely friendly and welcoming, and the future possibilities for the Lusaka/Albuquerque relationship are boundless.



Above: Mayor Nyendwa and Gary Oppedahl with copies of the signing agreement. Left: Mayor with ASCF President Richard Buckler.



Former Lusaka Mayor Mulenga Sata, 3rd from front left, and now the Honorable Deputy Minister of the State House, poses with the ASCF delegation, Lusaka's Mayor, and other city officials.





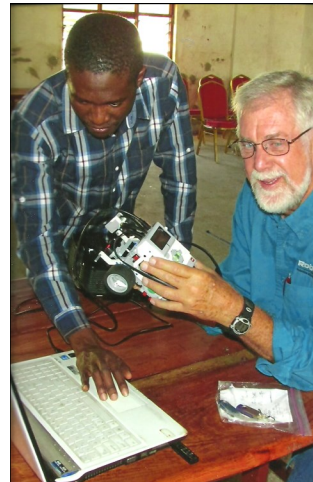
Royal Entrance to King Mukuni's village palace in Livingstone. Dancers await arrival of guests.



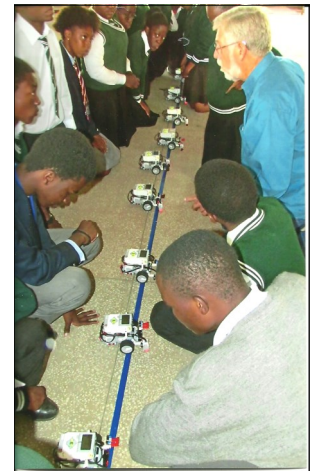
Zambia native dancer performing at signing ceremony.



Mayor Nyendwa with RovoRAVE students who went to Albuquerque in May. David Mapalo (blue shirt) is from Albuquerque.



Dave Bagley demonstrates robotics to students.



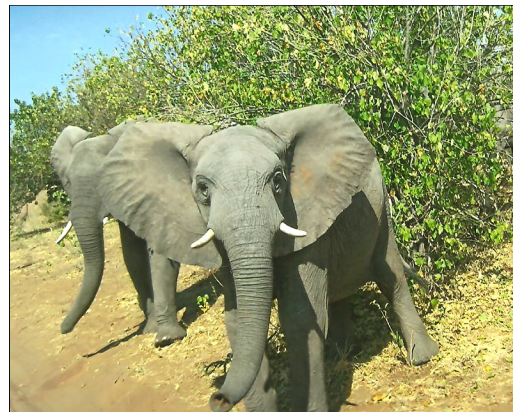
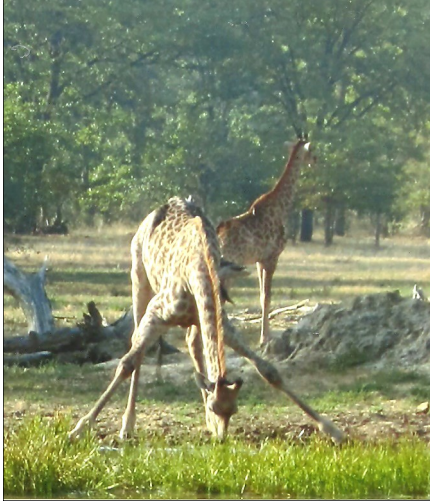
Mayor Nyendwa receives the Albuquerque flag from Gary Oppendahl and Randy Trask.



ASCF delegation meets with His Worship Livingstone Mayor Milford Maabo (center) at Livingstone City Hall.

SAFARI PHOTOS

From Zambia/Botswana



Randy Trask and Dave Bagley. No this is not photo
shopped!

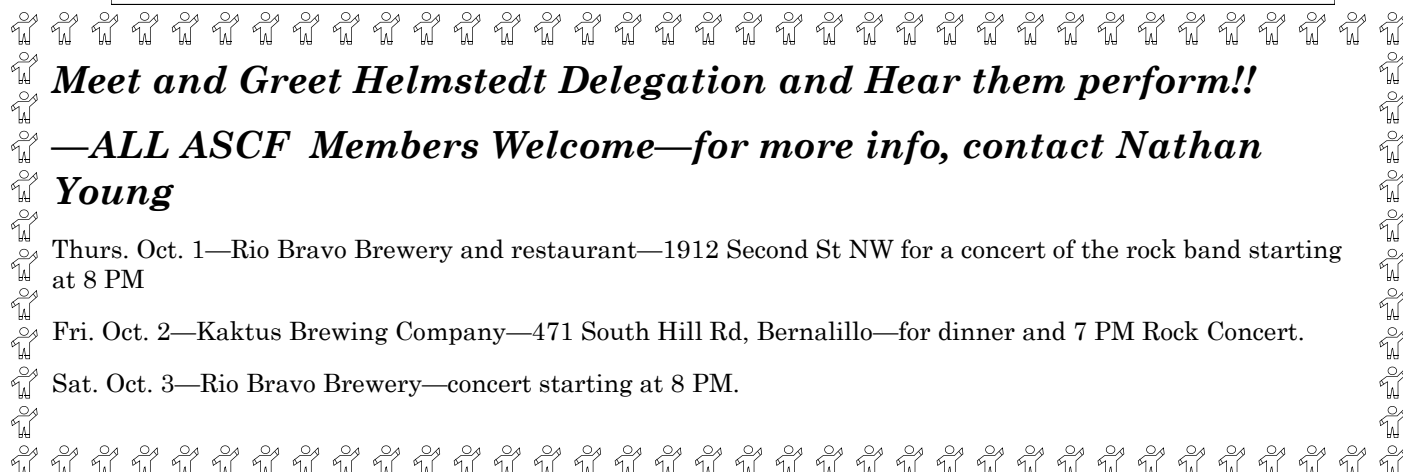


UPCOMING VISITS/TRIPS

Sept. 28—Oct. 5: Helmstedt delegation and Rock Band visits Albuquerque (see below)

Spring 2016: ASCF Membership trip to Guadalajara (April or May TBD by next newsletter). Contact Chair Jose Luis Cruz-Campa for more info.

Early Spring (March) or Fall (Oct.) 2016, TBD by next newsletter: ASCF Membership trip to Sa-sebo, Japan to celebrate 50 years of twinning!!! Contact Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman for more info.



Meet and Greet Helmstedt Delegation and Hear them perform!!

—ALL ASCF Members Welcome—for more info, contact Nathan Young

Thurs. Oct. 1—Rio Bravo Brewery and restaurant—1912 Second St NW for a concert of the rock band starting at 8 PM

Fri. Oct. 2—Kaktus Brewing Company—471 South Hill Rd, Bernalillo—for dinner and 7 PM Rock Concert.

Sat. Oct. 3—Rio Bravo Brewery—concert starting at 8 PM.

Rehovot, Israel News

The contemporary dance group Niv Shienfeld and Oren Laor dance Project from the Tel Aviv/Rehovot area came to Albuquerque in late May. They held open community workshops at the Keshet Center for the Arts. They also performed two different world-wide acclaimed productions: “Ship of Fools” and “Two Room Apartment.”

**Opportunity to tour Israel with the New Mexico-Israel Trade Mission:
October 10—20, 2015. Sponsored by NMIBE and ACI. Signup by Aug 28.
Six nights in Tel Aviv/Three nights in Jerusalem at the Dan Panorama.**

- Breakfast daily and ground transportation to all listed events. Welcome Social, three hosted dinners with chance to meet key government leaders.
- Included tours: [Megiddo](#) /[Sea of Galilee](#). At Meggido (Armageddon), archaeologists have unearthed an incredible 25 layers of settlement built on top of each other that cover a period of 35 centuries. The Sea of Galilee, known to Israelis as Lake Kinneret, is one of the most well-known bodies of water in the world.
- 1/2-day walking tour of [Jerusalem](#). Tour to [Masada](#), [Ein Gedi](#), swim in the [Dead Sea](#)! Masada became one of the Jewish people's greatest symbols as the place where the last Jewish stronghold against Roman invasion stood. Next to Jerusalem, it is the most popular destination of tourists visiting Israel. Ein Gedi is an oasis in the desert situated on the shore of the Dead Sea – the lowest place on Earth. Salts in the Dead Sea are therapeutic—and provide enough buoyancy to read a book or paper while floating!
- **OCT.15: Tour of Albuquerque Sister City, [Rehovot](#), Sponsored by Albuquerque Sister Cities. Includes Rehovot Campus of Hebrew University, Weizmann Institute, Sister Cities affiliates. Rehovot, known as the City of Science and Culture. It is also known as Israel's citrus capital.**
- Plenty of opportunity for self-directed tours too around Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.
- For more information, contact Devont'e Watson : devontekwatson@gmail.com or Barbara Kline: bkline@breakthru.com or 505-720-6593.
- Separate business track if interested (but signups requested by Aug 9).
- Cost: hotels/tour package—\$2195 double occupancy; \$3095 single. Airfare is separate, but group rates may be available.

**ALBUQUERQUE SISTER CITIES
FOUNDATION, INC.**

PO Box 26533 Albuquerque, NM 87125-6533

ASCF Holds Annual Meeting—ASCF Trip to Ashgabat, Turkmenistan to Celebrate 25th Anniversary of twinning—RovoRAVE—ASCF Trip to Lusaka, Zambia—Lanzhou, China Delegation Visits Albuquerque

**PO Box 26533
Albuquerque, NM 87125-6533
www.Albuquerque-Sister-Cities.org**



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FOUNDATION, Inc.**

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult - Single/Family | \$20/\$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65 or older) – Single/Family | \$10/\$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (13-20) | \$7.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (21-35) | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small Business (15 or fewer employees) | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large Business (more than 15 employees) | \$300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reciprocal non-profit organization | N/C |

Membership Application

☐ New ☐ Renewal

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Address _____

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Website: W.W.ALBUQUERQUE-SISTER-CITIES.ORG