

Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

June 2010

ASCF Holds Annual Meeting

On Sunday, June 13, 2010, Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation held its Annual Meeting. Located at Congregation Albert, the gathering began with a buffet luncheon. Indulgence Cafe catered the turkey and avocado roll-ups, chicken salad sandwiches on wheat bread, homemade potato chips, and tossed salad with wit ranch dressing. Ariana's provided the bread with cucumber dip, baklava, and rice pudding. And, ASCF President Richard Buckler made some chocolate chip bars for the occasion.

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, one of ASCF's nine sister cities, was featured. Its committee displayed many wares from the area. After lunch, Tatiana Ventrinskaya enchanted all with a piano concert of music written by a Turkman composer. Tatiana has the New Mexico School of Music here in Albuquerque (www.nmschoolofmusic.com)

Election of officers for the ASCF board was held. The 2010-2011 ASCF officers are: President - Richard Buckler, 1st Vice President - Robert Montoya; 2nd Vice President - Carol Dawley; 3rd Vice President - Dave Bagley; Secretary - Mary Hope Buckler; and Treasurer - Carl Londene. Our new colorful ASCF brochures were distributed. Thank you Mary Hope Buckler for designing them!

The final item on the agenda was a discussion of volunteer opportunities available at the SCI International Conference here in Albuquerque this July 28 - 31.



ASCF President Richard Buckler welcomes Tito Madrid, Director of Constituent Services for the City of Albuquerque



The Ashgabat committee: L to R - Oguljan Young, Pat White, Jean Genasssi, Alana McGrattan, Sally Alice Thompson, Mellie Myer, Tenaya Torres-Tellez, Bill Myer, Jim Genassi and Chema Young in the front.



Tatiana's piano concert.

From the President's Desk...

News flash!! Johannesburg, South Africa, Summer 2010. **Twenty years** after the first steps were begun to dismantle the apartheid state in that country, South Africa now plays host to the 2010 FIFA World Cup competition, the real "football" super bowl for the world (soccer to many Americans). Billions of people all around the world are watching as their countries' teams compete in the grueling 90 minute games. And, billions of people find common ground upon which to interact in a peaceful manner.

It's the sense of fairness I think that makes international "football" so successful. Every country can qualify based on the abilities of their players. And, the opportunity exists for the under-dog to truly succeed. At the end of the day, win or lose, all nations have shared in a common experience. Peace through common experience. This is what Sister Cities stands for. While honoring and even focusing on our differences, rather than suppressing them, we as human beings learn to appreciate and respect others. It has worked in South Africa. It can work anywhere, even here.

This summer Albuquerque is once again privileged to host the Sister Cities International Conference, July 27 - August 1 (for youth) or July 29 - 31 (for adults). It's been **twenty years**. How have we changed in Albuquerque since the last SCI conference was held here? Are we as a people more understanding of each other, respecting the differences of other cultures? This is one reason your organization, ASCF, takes time each year to feature the beauty of our various sister cities, and the cultures they represent. As we concluded our fiscal year this month, we reflect back on the Mexican independence night hosted last fall by our Chihuahua and Guadalajara committees. We remember the wonderful celebration of the Chinese New Year in February sponsored by our Lanzhou and Hualien groups. And, earlier this month at our annual meeting, we reflect on the stirring music played by Tatiana Ventrinskaya, originally from our sister city of Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, entertaining on the grand piano in the main sanctuary of Congregation Albert.

I hope that ASCF, along with other like-minded organizations, can feel proud of the progress we've made these past **twenty years** in between conferences. We are now nine sister cities strong. Some of our cities represent countries that opposed the United States in WW II, yet now are our friends. Some struggle with official recognition between their respective countries, but as individual cities twined with Albuquerque, help us look beyond the strife and focus on the beauty of each. We have a Muslim sister city and a Jewish sister city. With our Hispanic sister affiliations, we remember New Mexico's original roots. And, for the future we are working with the New Mexico Office of African American Affairs to explore the possibility of finding a city partner on the African continent. It takes all of our efforts, as if we are on the same "football" team, trying to score enough goals to win the World Cup - and gaining our peace through common experience.

Respecting our differences,



Richard Buckler

2010-2011

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L to R: Carol Dawley, Dave Bagley, Carl Londene, Richard Buckler, Bob Montoya, and Mary Hope Buckler.

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VOLUNTEER for SCI International Conference July 29 -31 !!!!

Contact Richard Buckler
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TRIP TO GERMANY

Albuquerque's Sister City of Helmstedt, Germany invites you to visit them

WHEN: September 17 - 27, 2010

COST: estimated \$650 EXCLUDING airfare

INCLUDES - transportation by bus or train

Home stays in Helmstedt

2 nights in Heidelberg at Ibis hotel (with breakfast)

2 nights in Munich at hotel Herzog (with breakfast)

Day tour of Neuschwanstein from Munich

1 night in Berlin (with breakfast)

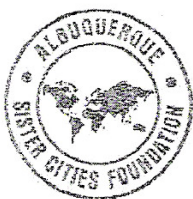
BASED on double occupancy, single occupancy in Heidelberg and Munich will be an additional price.

Flight arrangements (cost not yet determined) is in to and out of Berlin.

DEPOSIT: \$500 by July 31, 2010

For further information, please contact Nathan Young at 977-6033 or nathaneyoung@gmail.com

SISTER CITIES OFFICE HAS MOVED; After several years of having our office space hosted by Albuquerque's Department of Family and Community services at two convenient locations in the downtown area, the city is downsizing its rented space. Sister Cities was notified by the city that we would have to relocate our office storage and board meeting room. Past President Betty-Mae Hartman volunteered the use of her garage to hold our office material; and May 21 was the big move. Richard Buckler, Mary Hope Buckler, Ramon Gonzales, Dave Bagley and Bob Montoya helped pack, move and unpack the office supplies to Betty-Mae's garage. Also, our board meeting room will now be at the Sandia Labs Federal Credit Union Building, 3707 Juan Tabo Blvd. NE, where we maintain a checking account. Beginning with our July 21, 2010 meeting, the Board will meet at the Credit Union.



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ASCF Annual Meeting - Volunteer for the SCI Junly 2010 conference

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www.Albuquerque-Sister-Cities.org



THE ALBUQUERQUE
sister
cities
FOUNDATION, Inc.

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

WEBSITE: WWW.ALBUQUERQUE-SISTER-CITIES.ORG