

Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

Winter 2010

2009-2010

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ASCF Celebrates Chinese New Year

On Saturday, February 13, 2010, ASCF celebrated the Chinese New Year. The event, hosted by the Lanzhou and Hualien committees, was held at the Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center. About 130 persons were present to savor the delicious luncheon catered by Ho Lo Ma Restaurant. Rubing and Yu-Lin Shen gave an informative presentation of the Chinese lunar calendar and New Year customs. The New Year's day is on the date of the new moon closest to February 4 - this year being February 14. This coming year is the year of the tiger.

A group of young

dancers delighted the audience with several dances including the banquet dance with platters and chopsticks, and the fan dance. A world master and his wife performed a demonstration of Tai Chi. Shanghai is hosting the World Expo from May to October 2010 and a brief slide show was given of a proposed trip to attend the Expo. Entertainment culminated in some wonderful choral singing. Two of the singers (a visiting professor and his wife) were from Albuquerque's sister city, Hualien, Taiwan. Many thanks to David Hsi, Chair of the Lanzhou committee and Yu-Lin Shen, Chair of the Hualien committee for their efforts in arranging this lovely celebration.



Attending the Chinese function are Carol Robertson-Lopez, SCI National Board Member and Tito Madrid, Director of Constituent Services for the City of Albuquerque.

Luncheon was catered by Ho Lo Ma Restaurant



ASCF President, Richard Buckler greets the two choral singers from Hualien, Taiwan - Chun-Chieh Chi, Ph.D. and his wife.



Tai Chi demonstration



From the President's Desk...

Less than five months and counting!! The Sister Cities International Conference for both Adults and Youth will come to the Land of Enchantment during the last week of July: Bringing delegates from over 30 countries. Plan to attend and/or volunteer. Sponsor a youth through ASCF and receive the joy of inspiring the upcoming generation. And, we'll give you a tax receipt.

We were saddened in January to say goodbye to our long-time friend and founder, Ruth Hashimoto. Thank you, Ruth, for being our example. We promise to carry the vision forward. The ASCF board would like to also thank Ruth's family for designating ASCF as one of the memorium recipients.



Richard Buckler

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Our membership continues to be stable, though we recently reduced its numbers by removing expired names from our database. Currently we have 168 active members.

In an effort to keep our membership notified of cultural events, we're using email on a regular basis. ASCF conducts at least 4 cultural events annually in addition to opportunities to travel to our sister cities. If you have access to the internet and want to be kept notified of our events, please ensure that we have a current email address. Please send your name, address and email to:

membership@albuquerque-sister-cities.org.

Many thanks!

Dave Bagley, Membership Chair

Ruth Remembered

Richard Buckler's speech given at Ruth Hashimoto's Celebration of Life Service, February 5, 2010:

Time Traveler - Ruth Hashimoto

Ruth Hashimoto left all of us with more than just memories. If we were writing a letter to our dear friend and mentor, it might go something like this:

Dear Ruth,

Over the past few weeks it has once again occurred to several of us involved in the Sister Cities organization, both local and national, that while many people can claim to have travelled the world, few understood it as you did. We refer to that special quality you had to feel at home in any culture amongst any people. And, your 96 years of life on this planet gave you a unique perspective on a time in world history when it was not yet popular to be a peace advocate.

You had every reason to follow a different path, one calling for retaliation against the injustices done against you and your family. But, you responded with a higher calling, showing us how to lay aside those things which so easily beset us, and help us run the race that is life.

So, today, we remember your spirit of gratitude, courage, fearlessness, devotion and your commitment to world peace as exhibited in the establishment of sister

cities here in Albuquerque, as well as throughout the world. Sometimes it was the little things, such as giving us all origami paper cranes as symbols of world peace, or a simple hug and encouraging word. You wrapped up our lives in that universal language of love.

Some of us were there when you led one of the many delegations to Japan. We remember how you introduced us to the bullet train, and how we only had a minute to get our entire luggage off. That taught us to travel lighter the next time.

But, speaking of "traveling lighter," perhaps that was one of the key lessons we learned from you; namely, get rid of the old baggage, the old way of thinking, and be nimble.

It's no wonder you received dozens of awards for humanitarian work, and United Nations' outreach, as an advocate for Human Rights. We admire you for your awards for Distinguished Public Service, New Mexico Halls of Fame for both Women and Seniors. And, when, in 1996, you were declared to be a "Living Treasure of New Mexico," we said: "Tell us something we don't know!"

Well, we would like to give you another award this afternoon - one from the bottom of our hearts. You already have the Sister Cities Inter-

national President's Award, and an annual award given in your name to that individual who most embodies your spirit. No, the award we want to give you today, in remembrance of all you have done, is the Time Traveler's Award. This award isn't given just once in a lifetime, but allows you to reach out timelessly through those of us who will follow in your footsteps. Tomorrow, or next week, or next month or even next year, when we reach out across the world to shake a hand, share a meal, make a friend, and then realize that person to person, city to city, we can live the life you've taught us - well, then you've traveled with us through time and your legacy lives on.

And we will pause and once again thank you for more than memories.

With much love and appreciation, Your Sister Cities Family and Friends.

IN MEMORIAM

RUTH HASHIMOTO

1913 - 2010

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

SCI International Conference - Albuquerque, NM - July 28-31, 2010

Please volunteer for postions below. The form at the bottom can be mailed to:
 Richard Buckler - 10100 Isla Pl NE - Albuquerque, NM 87111 or email to:
 rbuckler3@comcast.net or telephone at: 505-259-7392

Runners (4+) - be onsite at the conference hotel and available for any/all errands needed. Volunteers will need to have their own transportation. They can help greet at registration when not in "use." 2 needed on duty during conference hours; split into 2 shifts morning/afternoon. 1 afternoon shift on Wed. 28th.

Hosts/Best Practices/Exhibit Hall (10 +) - responsible for welcoming delegates at the Hospitality Room, Best Practices, and Exhibit Hall areas.

Tickets/Special Events (30 +) - Greet delegates as they enter venues/receptions, check badges or collect tickets. Generally two shifts will be encouraged for major events so volunteers can participate in the event, if registered for the conference.

General Sessions/Classes/Seminars (20 +) - Greet delegates as they enter seminar and class locations and verify that attendees have badges.

Registration (25+) - Assist SCI in registration process. Bi-lingual talents are needed.

Bag Stuffers (20 +) - Monday prior to conference at the conference hotel.

Training: two training sessions - 1. SCI's mandatory for those helping with registration and 2. given by Richard Buckler for all volunteers.

All volunteers will be given and required to wear an identifying shirt when scheduled for duties. ASCF will provide a T-shirt. A polo shirt is availabe for \$15

Please print legibly. Thanks.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Area of Interest _____

Days/Times Available _____

Languages other than English _____

Car available for errands? (Yes or No) _____ Adult T-Shirt Size _____

Brief Conference Schedule

Wednesday - July 28, 2010

afternoon - attendees start to arrive
registration/information

evening - possible event

Thursday - July 29, 2010

8:00 am - 5:00 pm - registration/information

8:00 am - noon - meetings

Noon - 1:15 - lunch

1:15 pm - 5:30 pm - meetings

evening event

Friday - July 30, 2010

8:00 am - 5:00 pm - registration/information

9:00am - 10:00 am - opening session

10:00 am - 5:00 pm - Exhibit Hall, Best Practices, Cyber Cafe

10:15 am - 11:45 am - workshops

Noon - 1:30 pm - networking lunch

1:45 pm - 5:30 pm - workshops

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm - Mayor's reception

Saturday - July 31, 2010

8:00 am - noon - information and membership desks open

9:00 am - 3:00 pm - Exhibit Hall, Best Practices, Cyber Cafe

9:30 am - 11:30 am - Annual Business Meeting

Noon - 2:00 pm - Lou Wozar Annual Awards Luncheon

2:30 - 4:30 pm - Board of Directors Meeting

2:30 pm - optional tours of Santa Fe and Albuquerque

evening - concert at Kimo theater

Note: Detailed Schedule at: www.sister-cities.org/conference

Turkmen Study Albuquerque Water Issues

On Friday night, February 26, a five-member delegation from Turkmenistan arrived in Albuquerque. An Open World grant provided the visit. There was Ahmet Muhammedov, the group's leader; Nursayid Al-laberenov; Muhammetmeret Akmuradov; and Nurmammet Sunnetov - all involved with either water resources or water conservation. Rustam Sariyev accompanying the others as a facilitator, works at the US Embassy in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

The host families - Jim and Jean Genasci; Pat White; Mark and Karen Bentz; and Nathan and Oguljan Young - were at the Sunport to greet the visitors. Vic Dawley was the official driver for the week and Maria Naidenkova was the translator.

On Saturday afternoon, they rode the famous Sandia tram and enjoyed the mountaintop view. That evening there was a welcome reception at Serafian's Carpets. ASCF board members and members of the Ashgabat committee were present to greet the Turkmen. A few tidbits shared were that all members were married. All but Rustam have children. However, Rustam's wife is expecting their first child shortly. Numammet came from Lebop in the eastern section of Turkmenistan (borders Uzbekistan) while the others were from Ashgabat. It was the first trip to the USA for Rustam while this was Ahmet's second visit. They all said that they had little free time for hobbies but did enjoy watching news and sports (soccer and Russian ice hockey) on television. More sightseeing on Sunday.

A trip to Acoma Pueblo was followed by a sumptuous lunch at Route 66 Casino.

On Monday, they toured the Albuquerque Biopark. Emily Myer, Refugium Aquarist, gave them a "behind the scenes" tour. This was followed by lunch at the Shark Reef Cafe and a walk through the botanical gardens. A tour of New Mexico Museum of Natural History occupied the afternoon.

Time to interact with dignitaries: Tuesday morning they met with Sarah Cobb, Policy Staff Assistant for Senator Tom Udall and Matt Zidovsky, Congressional Water issues Specialist in the Office of U.S. Rep Martin Heinrich. A box lunch from Ariana's Market was enjoyed by all at the Corrales home of ASCF member Alana McGrattan. She is an acequia farmer. After lunch, Alana gave a driving tour of her ranch and explained how local farmers make use of irrigation water. The group then traveled to Sandia Pueblo where they were met by Derrick J. Lente. Derrick is a member of the Pueblo and has a seat on the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District Board of Directors. He gave a detailed explanation of the historical use of surface water by the Native American people as well as the problem involved with regulating the fair use of a scarce resource. That evening the Turkmen enjoyed dinner at Bucca di Beppo's. Nurmammet's birthday is in March and it was celebrated in the restaurant in grand style!

Wednesday saw the men talking with Patricia Dominguez,

Policy Staff Assistant for Senator Jeff Bingaman. This was followed by a visit with John Stomp and Frank Roth of the city/county Water Authority. After a busy morning, ASCF President Richard Buckler took the group to Tucano's for a memorable lunch. Then it was off to visit MIOX, a commercial company that manufactures water treatment and purification systems which are in use around the world. Their system uses food grade salt instead of liquid chlorine to purify water in a safer, more cost-effective manner. MIOX project manager, Radi Simeonova led the delegation on a walking tour of the manufacturing facility. That evening, Jim and Jean Genasci hosted a potluck supper. Special invitees included the Rabb family (their father wrote a symphony performed in Turkmenistan) and Sylvia Rodriguez, an anthropology professor at UNM who shared a video about acequias.

Thursday, after meeting with Mayor Richard J. Berry, CAO David Campbell and Director John Garcia and then lunch at Ariana's; the group met with Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District Chief Engineer, Subhas K. Shah. They discussed water management for arroyos and flood control. As this was exactly what the visiting Turkmen do at home, there were many questions and much interaction.

Friday, the last full day in the USA, the Turkmen visited the US Dept. of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. This included a field trip to review irrigation equipment and operation - Angosture Diversion and the Piedra Liza Dam. Over a potluck luncheon, the delegation gave a presentation on a major water project in Turkmenistan. Before the dinner reception at the home of Nathan & Oguljan Young, the guests had one more opportunity to go shopping. Cosmetics and electronics as well as children's clothing were high on their lists. The farewell dinner was served Turkmenistan-style with seating on cushions on the floor. Many toasts to friendship were made. All were invited to come to Turkmenistan in 2011 to participate in that country's 20th independence celebration.



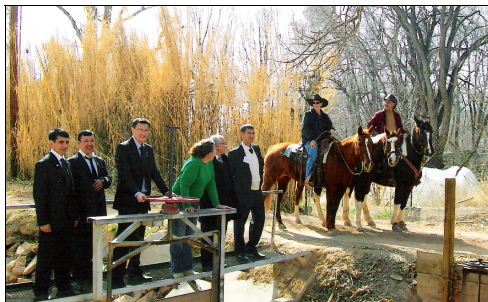
Turkmen recption at Serafian's - L. to R. Rustam, Ahmet, Nurmammet, Muhammetmeret, and Nursayid.



Turkmen and interpreter touring MIOX



Turkmen with Sarah Cobb (above) and Matt Zidovsky (L.)



The acequia on Alana McGrattan's ranch



Talking with Derrick Lente & his daughter at Sandia Pueblo



Angostura diversion dam in Algodones



Celebrating Nurmammet's birthday at Bucca di Beppo's

2009-2010 Chairs

Albuquerque, Spain
Ramon Gonzales
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rdgonzales36@comcast.net

Ashgabat,
Turkmenistan
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bill.myer@yahoo.com

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Youth Coordinators

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bucklerd@comcast.net

Gina Solis
315-5586
georgina.solis@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 21, 2010 - SCI July Conference Volunteer meeting - Compass Bank - 505 Marquette NW - 14th floor - 5:15 pm - All welcome

May 19, 2010 - ASCF Board meeting - Compass Bank - 505 Marquette NW - 14th floor - 5:15 pm - All welcome

June 13, 2010 - ASCF Annual Meeting - Congregation Albert - noon - 4 pm - RSVP required for lunch (noon - 1pm)

July 29-31, 2010 - SCI Adult Conference - Albuquerque

July 27-31, 2010 - SCI Youth Conference - Albuquerque

Fall 2010 - ASCF trip to Helmstedt, Germany and Albuquerque, Spain. If interested contact Nathan Young at 977-6033 or nathaneyoung@gmail.com OR Ramon Gonzales at 873-0840 or rdgonzales36@comcast.net

Fall 2010 - ASCF trip to Chihuahua, Mexico. If interested contact Alma Solis at 804-5471 (postponed from May 2010).

CHIHUAHUA HAPPENINGS


On October 12, 2009, Chihuahua Chair, Alma Solis participated in Chihuahua's Tricentennial opening ceremony where ASCF was recognized for being one of the sister cities that has worked continuously with Chihuahua. Mexico's First Lady, Mrs. Calderon was present at the ceremony.

November 6, 2009 Chihuahua's Fiesta del Globo took place. Both Mayor Martin Chavez of Albuquerque and Alma Solis were honored and recognized for their work in maintaining an outstanding relationship between the sister cities.

November 18, 2009 Alma attended Chihuahua's first world sister cities conference, where six countries participated. The Conference theme was about diversity, security and ecology. Attendees learned how to use local resources to accomplish their goals.

ASCF BUSINESS MEMBERS

Serafian's Oriental Rugs
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Albuquerque NM, 87110
Phone: 872.1166
Fax: 884.8938
www.japanesekitchen.com

Sasebo, Japan Visitor

Toshimitsu Iizuka visited Albuquerque for a week in March 2010. His hosts, Richard and Mary Hope Buckler enjoyed their outgoing guest who was interested in many things, especially American people and their culture. Toshimitsu is in his first year of medical study at Tokai University in Kanagawa Pref., Japan.



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In This Issue...

ASCF Celebrates Chinese New Year — Turkmen in Albuquerque on Open World Grant

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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