

Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

Winter 2015

2014 - 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

Carl Londene
877-1491
celondene1@q.com

Newsletter Editor

Carol Dawley
883-9516
crdawley@juno.com

More International Tea
photos on page 4.

ASCF Hosts International Tea

On Saturday, January 17, 2015, ASCF hosted its annual international tea. Free and open to the public, the event was held at Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center. Each of our sister cities, including the youth, had their own table where they served refreshments indicative of their city. The committee chairs had an opportunity to talk about upcoming plans for their specific group after which an attendee was given a door prize. The tea was well attended by 130 people, including several youth. Based on the feedback all seemed to enjoy themselves.



Alana McGrattan (L.) is welcomed to the Ashgabat, Turkmenistan table by Mellie Myers, co-chair (center) and Oguljan Young, Chair (R.)



Helmstedt, Germany's co-chair, Ray Heidfeld (L.) and chair, Nathan Young (R.) told tea attendees about 2016 plans to visit Germany.



Sasebo, Japan's co-chair, Pam Feather (L.) and Chair, Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman (R.) served special tea at their table.



Hualien, Taiwan's co-chair, Rubing and Dr. Yu-Lin Shen, chair (L.) greet visitors to their table.

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 nathaneyoung@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
Janice Moranz
 417-3787
 janicemoranz@comcast.net

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

From the President's Desk...

The number one ranked “gadget” in the world today is the smart phone. Yep, the world is addicted to technology and the grid that supports it. According to recent statistics, 1.2 billion smart phones were sold in 2014 alone, while 93% of the world's population is connected to some type of mobile device already. In 6 years it is estimated that 60 billion devices will be connected to “the grid” ushering in Smart Cities (a whole other topic for conversation).

For some of us it feels like a brave new world. Others of us, especially our youth, are growing up with such technology. For them it is the world. So, why then is there sometimes a “disconnect” with the education process? Why, for example, does our New Mexico high school graduation rate for the past years hover around 60%, in spite of ongoing programs?

The latest such program is the PARCC's test—a month-long process that attempts to evaluate our high school students. Few students like testing, period..... That is certainly some of the feedback I received recently from 3 sophomore ladies and 1 freshman young man that have been attending a weekly lunch mentoring program sponsored by the Martin Luther King Commission. “I think I failed the math”, “The questions were confusing”, “I hope I passed the English—had to write 3 essays” were just a few of the comments. But, smart phone technology they get. Even while talking to them, one student took my picture and did the Instagram thing. I thought I was going to get a cup of instant coffee.

No one debates that our young people need to have the

necessary skills to succeed in our world. As US House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi in a visit this past week to New Mexico said: “Nothing brings more money to the Treasury than the education of the American people.” (Mark Oswald, Albuquerque Journal, 3/21/15). Local businesses need an educated/trained workforce, a fact also being promoted by the recent appointment by Governor Martinez of Dr. Barbara Damron as Cabinet Secretary of Higher Education.

But, how do we better communicate the vision expressed by such community leaders to our youth? Perhaps using some of the same technology so popular among our “leaders of tomorrow” will help. Engaging them in projects that have a “technological” appeal while allowing them to develop other necessary social, educational, and job skills, seems like a must. Sister City type projects that expose students to the international world while making life-long friendships can, I think, be part of the answer.

So, come and see technology in action by our youth!! Two great events are coming up in the next few months: 1) April 30 RoboRAVES' International student mixer at the Convention Center. 500 students from other countries are expected and RoboRAVE wants them to meet you! 2) June 14 Annual meeting—after a nice lunch we will have an actual robotics demonstration by a group of students showing us how technology and culture can come together. If you get a moment, why don't you invite your friends—just Instagram them! (For details see page 5).

Richard

Oguljan Young, Ashgabat Chair, is Honored

As ASCF Chair of the Ashgabat, Turkmenistan committee, Oguljan Young has worked hard to receive guests from Turkmenistan. She writes grants to the Open World program sponsored by the US State Department. Launched in May 1999, Open World hosts emerging political and civic leaders from Eurasia through its

unique congressionally sponsored exchange program. In 2013, Open World conducted programs for 1,276 participants from 17 different countries. The 2013 Open World Annual Report highlights several host coordinators.

Oguljan is one of those mentioned, having her own page.

ASCF Membership Trip to Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

Ashgabat Trip: May 17-23, 2015
Optional Istanbul, Turkey Trip:
May 13-16, 2015

Celebrate 25th silver anniversary of Albuquerque-Ashgabat relationship! Embark on a journey of a life time! Travel with us to Turkmenistan to visit 1,000 year-old ruins and ancient civilizations. Visit the local bazaar and enjoy the colorful culture . A pre-Ashgabat trip to Istanbul is available.

We will celebrate not only Turkmenistan's Constitution Day and Day of Unity but also honor the 25th sister city partnership. Through assistance from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, we will meet with the Mayor of Ashgabat as part of our official program. Additionally, the USA Ambassador to Turkmenistan, Allan Mustard has invited us for a special reception where we will be honored guests and have an opportunity to meet all of the Turkmen delegates who have visited Albuquerque in the last 5-6 years.

We will: Arrange your visitor's visa—Book hotel rooms, breakfast included—Book 1-day trip to ancient city of Merv—arrange transportation—book hotel rooms in Istanbul.

Those interested should call Oguljan Young as soon as possible at 505-917-4326.

More International Tea Photos



Guadalajara, Mexico Chair, Jose-Luis Campa (Center) welcomes folks to his display.



Alma Solis (L.), Chair of Chihuahua, Mexico serves her famous spiced hot chocolate.



Alan Shepherd (L.) welcomes Anna Suazo (R.) to the youth display. Anna is one of the youth going to Sasebo, Japan this summer.



Lin Ye (L.), Chair of Lanzhou, China tells guests to his table about ASCF's recent trip there and shares some tasty Chinese treats.

Upcoming Events

April 20—21: partner organization Santa Fe World Affairs Forum is putting on a symposium on "Climate Change." St. John's College. \$80 for sister city members—ask for Member Rate, \$50 for students. Contact: Irene Thomas, idthomas@msn.org.

April 30— May 3—Robo Rave. April 30 is International Student night. More information on page 5.

May 13-16: ASCF member trip to Istanbul

May 17-23: ASCF member trip to Ashgabat, Turkmenistan - if interested, contact Oguljan Young 803-0247.

May 26—27 Rehovot Committee announces that Niv Sheinfeld and Oren Laor are scheduled to perform at Keshet Center for the Arts. Two different performances, two different evenings. Tickets: \$15; only \$10 for seniors or students. Call Keshet Office for more information: 505-224-9808.

June 14: ASCF annual meeting, highlighting our youth - Buffet King on Academy —arrive after 12:30 and food served at 1 pm—See article on page 5.

June 20 - July 2: ASCF member trip to Lusaka, Zambia. Contact Patrick Mapalo 750-2702 or Richard Buckler 291-8175 for more information.

July 16—18: Sister Cities International Conference, Minneapolis, MN. Theme: Bridging Generations for Peace.

July 14-27: ASCF youth trip to Sasebo, Japan

Early September (TBD): possible trip to Chihuahua, Mexico. Call Chair Alma Solis for more info 417-0525.

Sept 28 - Oct 5: Helmstedt delegation will visit Albuquerque.

ASCF Annual Meeting

ASCF will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, June 14, 2015 at the Buffet King restaurant—Academy (just north of San Mateo). Guests should start arriving after 12:30 with food served at 1 pm. Cost is \$10 for members and \$16 for non-members. Children ages 4-10 are \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. Includes all you can eat buffet and soft-drink, tea, or coffee.

Payment (Cash or check to ASCF) will be collected at the door. However, to help plan please RSVP to Dave Bagley at dave3114@gmail.com.

In keeping with the Sister Cities

International theme this year of “Bridging Generations for Peace” The meeting will highlight our youth group and have a robotics demonstration. Door prizes and an election of officers for the next fiscal year (July—June) will round out our time together.

Based on our by-laws, the current board is to submit a proposed slate of officers for the new fiscal year at least 30 days before the election. At the recent March 19, 2015 meeting the board approved the following list of candidates to fill the 4 open seats this year:

2nd Vice President—Carol Dawley

3rd Vice President—Dave Bagley

Secretary—Mary Hope Buckler

Treasurer—Darlene Capshaw

Additional nominations for any of the above positions will be taken from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

These positions are for one year, while the President and 1st Vice President positions are for 2 years, and thus are not up for election until 2016.

International Student Mixer

As mentioned in the President’s letter, **YOU ARE INVITED**, as members, to attend for free the April 30 RoboRAVE international student meet and greet night.

This event will be held at the Convention Center West downtown. The entire west ballroom on the upper level has been reserved by RoboRAVE. They have asked Albu-

querque Sister Cities to be one of the partners for this event and would LOVE to see you there to meet the international students coming from various countries. We expect some of the students to be from our sister cities from Mexico, China, and our newest sister city of Lusaka, Zambia.

To recap:

WHAT: Meet n Greet

WHEN: April 30

WHERE: Convention Center upper ballroom west

TIME: 6—8 PM

COST: FREE

(refreshments will be provided)

Helmstedt visitors to visit in October..Hosts needed.

Coming soon!!

A delegation of 14 is expected to visit us during Balloon Fiesta. The group will arrive on September 28 and leave on October 5 to do further travel across the southwest.

Nathan Young, Helmstedt Chair, would like several more host fami-

lies to host this group, especially hosts that can take a couple.

Please let him know.

Nathan Young
977-6033 nathaneyoung@gmail.com

Zambia Trip:

Still time to sign-up for June 20—July 2 trip. If interested call Richard Buckler, 291-8175, or email at president@albuquerque-sister-cities.org.

ALBUQUERQUE SISTER CITIES
P.O. BOX 26533
ALBUQUERQUE, NM
87125-6533

Inside this issue: ASCF International Tea, Oguljan Young, Ashgabat Chair is honored

PO Box 26533			THE ALBUQUERQUE
Albuquerque, NM 87125-6533			sister
www.Albuquerque-Sister-Cities.org			cities
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<input type="checkbox"/> Adult - Single/Family	\$20/\$30	<u>Membership Application</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65 or older) – Single/Family	\$10/\$15	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth (13-20)	\$7.50	Name _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (21-35)	\$20	Address _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Business (15 or fewer employees)	\$100	City, State, Zip _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Large Business (more than 15 employees)	\$300	Email _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reciprocal non-profit organization	N/C	Phone _____	
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Website: WWW.ALBUQUERQUE-SISTER-CITIES.ORG