

Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

Fall 2007

2007-2008

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One trip - Two Sister Cities: Helmstedt and Ashgabat

In October, a delegation representing Albuquerque Sister Cities flew to Frankfurt, Germany. From there, they traveled to their Sister City, Helmstedt, Germany. Here they were warmly greeted by their hosts and members of the Helmstedt Sister Cities Organization. Mr. and Mrs. Hagedorn greeted the delegation with an American flag, and former longtime Mayor, Hans Otto Kieschke, gave a speech of welcome. Time was spent getting acquainted with their hosts and their surroundings. Then on Monday, October 22, 2007, all gathered at the Rathaus (town hall), built 1904-1906, for an official welcome by Mayor Heinz-Dieter Eisermann in the

Ratsaal (Council Chamber.) In his welcome speech, Mayor Eisermann outlined the history of Helmstedt. He mentioned that the former University of Helmstedt was founded in 1576. Its buildings still stand today as well as the professors' residential houses where students came for lessons. The chapel in St. Ludgeri's Benedictine Monastery (founded about 1000) is the oldest building in Helmstedt. The settlement "Helmonstede" can be traced back to the year 952, when it was first mentioned in an official document, and was awarded its town charter in 1247. After World War II, Helmstedt was the biggest transition point to West Berlin. It housed the military garrisons from USA, England and France who were responsible for keeping the land corridor (the Autobahn) to West Berlin open at all times. It is now a symbol of German reunification, which took place in 1989. Helmstedt's open pit mining operation has been closed and the company is now recycling materials for the nearby power plant of Buschhaus. The pits are to be filled with water and the new lake formed will be used for recreation. Cont'd page 3

ASCF Visits Chihuahua

By: Dave Bagley

Alma Solis, ASCF Chihuahua Chair, put together a wonderful trip introducing us to the culture of the city and state of Chihuahua. We began our journey with Los Limousines. Their coach carried us south from Albuquerque through the miles of New Mexico desert to El Paso. We changed buses in El Paso, passed smoothly across the border, and continued through similar Mexican landscape into the bustling city of Chihuahua, population of 750,000. The city provided us with a nice, new van, which was waiting for us at the bus station. Here we stayed at the Palacio del Sol (Palace of the Sun), conveniently located in the city center and nicely equipped with everything we needed. Chihuahua's climate is similar to Albuquerque, and at 4,600 feet, it's dry and has similar temperature. During the next few days, we had an evening reception with Mayor Juan Blanco, lots of sightseeing, and a visit to the nearby Mennonite community which manufactures much of the cheese that Chihuahua is famous for. We also visited Luis Urias Elementary School, where we donated a nice selection of books for their bilingual library. (*)
Cont'd page 3



Mr. & Mrs. Hagedorn welcome ASCF President Dave Bagley to Helmstedt.

From the President's Desk

We've had several wonderful cultural visits to our sister cities during the past few months. You can read articles about each of the following trips in this newsletter.

In July, the City sponsored a trade mission to Lanzhou, China. **David Hsi** and **Jian Zhu** were asked to assist the city in making arrangements for the trip and providing cultural assistance during the various stops in China. In Lanzhou, the city signed a memorandum of understanding for student, tourism and commercial exchanges.

Alma Solis led a visit to Chihuahua, Mexico in August, with six Sister Cities members accompanying her. During their visit, all were treated to several unique cultural opportunities, including a reception with Mayor Juan Blanco and a meal with residents in their homes.

Wolfram Krank led a delegation of ten to Helmstedt, Germany in October. Our continued close relationship with Helmstedt was warm and friendly, with several new hosts

to welcome us in their homes. Wolfram's counterpart, **Karin Cyrol** put together a wonderful itinerary for us, with many different views of German cultures. Helmstedt is also one of our Sister School locations, and is planning to host a group from Albuquerque Academy in June 2008; then send students to Albuquerque in October 2008.

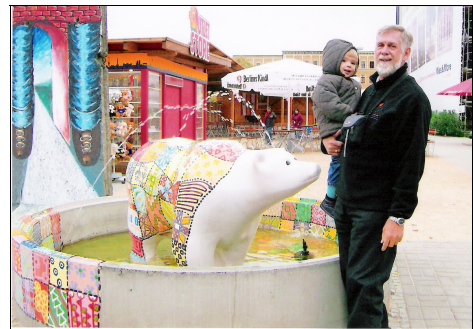
Oguljan Young led six of our members to Ashgabat, Turkmenistan during October. Their trip began in conjunction with Helmstedt; and they were treated to several days in Germany before continuing to Turkmenistan. Oguljan and her counterpart, **Maya Meredova**, arranged a superb itinerary that included a visit with Ashgabat's mayor, home-hosting and a trip to Central Asia's largest bazaar.

All these trips might make you ask if you're really experiencing the cultural opportunities of our Sister Cities. If not, then watch our newsletters and web site calendar - [http://www.albuquerque-sister-](http://www.albuquerque-sister-cities.org/Calendar.htm)

[cities.org/Calendar.htm](http://www.albuquerque-sister-cities.org/Calendar.htm) for the next time we can kindle your appetite for adventure. You can also enjoy culture right here by home-hosting guests from our Sister Cities when they visit Albuquerque. All you need is a spare bedroom and the desire to show our guests a sample of our life and cultures. It's as easy as a quick phone call to the Chair of that city.

Want more copies of this newsletter? www.albuquerque-sister-cities.org/Newsletter.htm

Dave Bagley



Dave and Chemen Young
and a Berlin "Buddy Bear."

WANTED: YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

Send to Nathan Young at
nathaneyoung@gmail.com

Meet Your Board: Bob Montoya

The Chair for the Guadalajara, Mexico committee is Bob Montoya. His interest in the Sister Cities program began many years ago when the Albuquerque Public Schools Administration and the mayor began to explore the idea of sister cities. Although the interest has remained, it wasn't until recently that he had the time to become actively involved. He feels that sister cities has the potential to bring about positive relationships with people from other parts of the world. In his career as an educator/administrator, he has worked with

students, parents, teachers and community leaders in Latin America and in Asia. It became apparent to him that our needs, beliefs, interests, aspirations and all that we value in life are more alike than different. Becoming sisters and brothers of the people of other cultures is essential not only to peace but to survival. Sister Cities can be a catalyst for achieving that end. On a personal level, Bob is most involved with his family. His wife, Delores shares his vision. They have two daughters who are also educators and three grandchildren. Enjoying the pleasures of retirement, Bob likes to observe nature, read, do photography, and collect "stuff."



Bob Montoya

2007-2008 Chairs

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Helmstedt Cont.

This project is due for completion in 2015. A large energy company is now located in Helmstedt. Mr. Eisermann has been to Albuquerque twice and hopes to return soon. He noted that next year, 2008, is the 25th anniversary of Helmstedt and Albuquerque becoming sister cities. He then explained the symbols in the beautiful stained glass windows in the room - they represent various guilds - blacksmith, salt miner, tanner, fur trader, plumber, carpenter, locksmith, tailor, glass maker, doctor, commerce, butcher, baker and barber. ASCF President Dave Bagley thanked him for his hospitality and presented him

with an engraved piece of Nam-beware, which read, "In recognition of our continued mutual friendship, October 22, 2007."

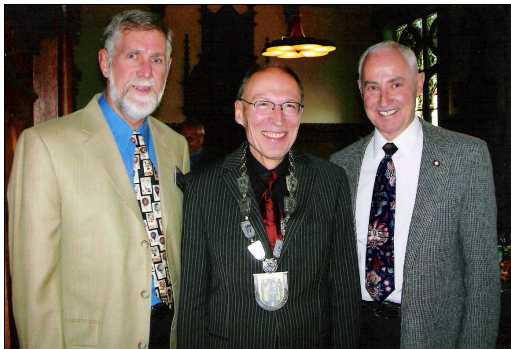
After lunch, all gathered at the Zonengrenzmuseum (Zonal Border Museum) - a museum in commemoration of the history of the former Inner-German border from its beginnings until reunification in 1989. In 1952, the German Democratic Republic (GDR) officially closed the border and started to build fences. While West Germany had stone markers identifying the border, East Germany had fences and watch towers. About 1,000 people died trying to escape the GDR. The museum has an impressive model of the barrier installation, showing original warning signs, landmines, uniforms, metal fencing and a handmade ladder used for a successful escape. An exhibition of photographs portray the dramatic opening of the border in 1989. We then rode to the village of Hotensleben which was inside the 'forbidden zone.' (5 km inside the border). Here is located the

only remaining site where the extensive barrier systems intended to prevent citizens of the GDR from crossing into the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) can be seen in their original condition. A 350-meter long section of the border control system has been preserved. It includes a 3.2 meter high reinforced-concrete wall, metal alarm fence, a concrete observation tower and observation shelter for vehicles, the patrol path of perforated concrete plates and the vehicle obstacles known as dragons' teeth." We then went to the former GDR checkpoint on the Autobahn to Berlin. Located at Marienborn, it was in operation from 1974 to June 1990. Passports were inserted in holders and traveled via conveyor belt to the processing building. Large in size, the building was actually fairly empty. The lengthy processing time and size of building were there for intimidation purposes. There was also an auto inspection area where car parts were removed and even gas tank size was measured.

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NOTE: Readers may be interested in the article "Free At Last" in the ASCF newsletter of December 2005 on page 9.

ASCF President Dave Bagley,
Burgermeister Heinz-Dieter Eisermann and Wolfram Krank,
Chair of Helmstedt Committee

*Chihuahua Cont.*

This school is the only public school in Chihuahua state that offers classes in English. The parents donate funds needed for the English teacher. There is no shortage of good food in the city, and we found that Mexican cuisine is not as "hot" as New Mexico's. Alma also arranged for a delightful cultural visit in the homes of several Chihuahua city employees, where we shared an afternoon meal.

After a few days in Chihuahua, we packed up the van and headed west to Creel, a mountain resort

community where it is cool and dry at 7,800 feet. There we boarded "El Chepe," the state-operated train that runs from Chihuahua to Los Mochis, on the Gulf of California. It's a relaxed way to travel - you can walk around, enjoy the scenery, read a book or eat a meal. We rode some 165 miles during our 5 hour trip, in and out of rainstorms, through seemingly endless green forest to El Fuerte (The Fort), a quiet old city of 45,000, almost at sea level. Here we spent the night at Hotel La Choza (The Hut). With very comfortable accommodations, including a lovely new swimming pool, we relaxed until bedtime. The following morning we headed back to Creel on "El Chepe." The bus

from Plaza Mexicana Margarita met us at the train & shuttled us to their hotel. Spending 2 nights here, we visited the Cusare Mission and Loyola Museum. We met several Tarahumara children (indigenous people) at the mission and gave them Tee shirts, pens and tennis balls, which they bounced against the church side like a team of pro jai-alai players. On our way back to Chihuahua, we stopped in Cuatomec for food, fuel and visit with Alma's family, who own a restaurant there. We arrived back in Chihuahua late afternoon. Our last dinner in the city was at a marisco, a seafood restaurant, where we enjoyed a tasty meal and some margaritas.

* Want to donate some books to the school? call Alma Solis at 804-5471.

Helmstedt Cont.

After a pleasant evening with our hosts, all assembled at 8 am for the trip to Berlin. Fond farewells were exchanged between those traveling onto Ashgabat, Turkmenistan and their new-found friends.

Berlin with its population of 3.5 million has 1/3 of its area set aside for forests and water parks. Here a tour guide joined the group and pointed out the various city sites. The separation between East and West Berlin was in the middle of the river. At 6 feet deep, many drowned trying to swim to freedom. A cobblestone line in the sidewalk marks where the wall once stood. A collection of white crosses is a memorial to the victims who died trying to cross the wall. We paused in front of the Reichstag. Burned when Hitler was in power, it was reopened in 1999. Since then it has had more than 12 million visitors. The Holocaust monument of 2,711 concrete blocks stands on top of where the WW II bunkers once were.. One can walk the narrow pathway among the blocks, provid-

ing an individual experience. A stop at the Brandenburg Gate - the royal entrance into the city. We too, like Napoleon, had a chance to proudly march through it. The Column of Victory marks the wars of the 2nd German Empire. The bear is the symbol of Berlin. It was once thought that Berlin meant small bear. However, it really means dry spot in a muddy area. There are "buddy bears" throughout the city. The 1,200 foot high TV tower has a restaurant at the top that takes 28 minutes to completely rotate. The Culture House has a unique shape. Once it was nicknamed the pregnant oyster but now it is called the Jimmy Carter smile. The linden trees that line the main street in East Berlin are numbered and registered. We stopped at our hotel - Movenpick and settled into our rooms. With the afternoon free, the group split up to explore the city - Checkpoint Charlie was within convenient walking distance and a must stop for many.

The next morning those bound for Turkmenistan departed for the Berlin airport. Those re-

maining in Germany had another free day to enjoy Berlin. Several visited Ka De We, a famous department store. Returning to Helmstedt that night, the group departed for the Harz National Park the next day. Riding to the top of the mountain on a steamtrain was most pleasant. However the fog limited the scenic viewing. So they went inside and enjoyed a hearty bowl of split pea soup and some wurst. Back to Helmstedt for some more quality time with their hosts and then a wonderful farewell party attended by the former Mayor of Helmstedt. A boat trip down the Moselle with a stop at Boppard was their final activity. On Thursday, November 1, 2007, they reconnoitered in Frankfurt with those returning from Turkmenistan and home they all flew. Fond memories include warm and gracious hosts and German beer and bakeries. An appreciation for freedom and true democracy came through. Walls to keep people in or out are not necessarily a good idea. We all look forward to a return visit from our friends in Helmstedt.



Hotensleben Border Zone

ASHGABAT

Eight members of ASCF headed for Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. Ashgabat, the capital, has borne this name since 1881. The city distinguishes itself with its own style, harmoniously combining the best traditions of its own national architecture and the achievements of a modern town. Arriving at the Ashgabat airport at 2 am, the weary travelers faced passport control and customs - but then, in the waiting area, were their hosts!! What a warm and excited greeting welcomed the group. With renewed

energy, they traveled "home." Ah, a warm cup of tea to cheer their hearts. But not just tea - a wonderful spread of bread, cheese, meats, and exotic fruits! (Note: Pomegranates are great!) A sample of the wonderful Turkmen hospitality! A long rest and now refreshed, the group met at the home of Ensi Gallery owner, Leili Khaidova. Leili has exhibited her fashions at the Santa Fe International Folk Art Festival. As we sat under the lattice work in her backyard, at little tables with gaily covered chairs and savored refreshments; the lovely models

(several young ladies and a gentleman) proudly walked among us. To add to the festivities, Leili had an accordionist and a famous artist who drew several caricatures. Back to our hosts' abodes for supper and friendly conversation.

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Sally Alice Thompson sporting the jacket she purchased from Leili's fashion show.

Ashgabat Cont.

The next day started with a tour of the Carpet Museum. Turkmen place the highest importance on carpet making. It is said water is the life of the Turkmen; horses are the wings of the Turkmen and carpets are the soul of the Turkmen. One of the oldest arts in Turkmenistan and the region, archeological data places carpet making as early as the 6th Century BC. Taking centuries for the carpet designs to develop, the decoration of the carpet is extremely original. The love of deep, rich red is an artistic tradition of the carpets. The five traditional designs form part of the country's state emblem and flag. Turkmen use natural dye and Saryia sheep wool and sometimes silk in making the carpets. At the Carpet Museum, we saw a rich collection. There were two sided carpets where the sides differed by color and pattern. There were special carpets for when a wedding occurs. Several carpet makers were present, working on one. We had our photo taken in front of the 5th largest carpet in the world; and the biggest carpet in the world (certified by Guinness)

with the size of 14 x 21 1/2 meters is also on display. It weighs over 1 ton. Taking 40 people (39 women and 1 man) 8 months to make, it celebrated the 10th anniversary of Turkmenistan's freedom. If a carpet is purchased in Turkmenistan, it must be certified by the Carpet Museum before it is allowed to leave the country. Carpets produced before 1975 may not be exported at all. The Turkmen are very protective of their national treasures.



The flag of Turkmenistan



Guide at Carpet Museum pointing out carpet with the State Emblem of Turkmenistan.

After the Carpet Museum, the group headed for the Hippodrome. Akhalteke horses are bred here. Akhalteke or Turkmen species is the most ancient among all other horse species. They were bred by Turkmen more than 5,000 years ago. Preserving the purity of the Akhalteke breed was a matter of honor among the Turkmen people that was passed down from generation to generation. These horses have a rare type of thin, short iridescent hair. They have a majestic swan neck, small and pretty head and perfectly-formed legs. Yanardag, an Akhalteke horse, famous as the first world champion in the Moscow bench show in 1999 is a symbol on the Turkmenistan national emblem. The group got to first mingle with the mares and their foals and then were treated to viewing some magnificent and stately stallions. A picnic lunch in the foothills of Ashgabat followed, hosted by Chary Shirliyev, Turkmen Heritage Chairman. He presented each group member with photos of award-winning Akhalteke stallions; photos of award-winning Alabey dogs, bred by Turkmen more than 4,000 years ago; and 2 DVD's - one of the Museums of Turkmenistan and the other of scenic places in Turkmenistan.

The Independence Day Festival Show was held at the Olympic Stadium. Promptly starting at 6 pm, we viewed the extravaganza from our special seats. The highly choreographed traditional dancing terminated in a spectacular fireworks and laser light display. We were all in awe! To end the day, we dined at a private apartment, eating Turkmen style (sitting on the floor) - another lavish feast!

Cont. page 6

Chinese-American Group Honors David Hsi

On August 4, 2007 at the 49th biennial National Convention of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, its highest honor was presented to David Ching Heng Hsi, PhD. He was honored for a lifetime of dedicated service and leadership - as a pioneer agricultural scientist, educator, senior

Olympian, and volunteer. As Chair of the ASCF Lanzhou committee, he recently accompanied Mayor Martin Chavez on an economic exchange trip to China.

NOTE: See Spring 2006 newsletter, page 4, for an in depth interview with David Hsi.



Independence Day Festival Show

Ashgabat Cont.

Up early the next morning to meet the mayor's aide, Mohammed Yusupov. He escorted us to our seats on the parade viewing stand. But first a little breakfast al fresco - coffee from a street vendor and goodies brought with us compliments of our hosts. The Independence Day parade was held at the State Square in front of the Presidential Palace. Of particular interest was that each group (i.e. university students, power workers) had its own backdrop float and group of dancers who paused to perform for the President. A handsome Akhalteke was presented to the President. We then walked to the elegant "Turkmenistan Restaurant" where the Mayor of Ashgabat hosted a luncheon for us. Although the Mayor could not join us, his aide, Mohammed and a city minister were present. Off to the Ruhiyet Palace where we saw a concert in honor of Independence Day. In a magnificent setting, there were traditional and modern songs as well as dancing and comedy routines. That evening, Tarlan Mirzaliyev

hosted a wonderful dinner party. Here we met with those who had come to Albuquerque last summer - Svetlana Naubatova and Avez Rizaev. It was a great night of camaraderie - friendships, toasting, feasting, and dancing!!!

Another early-rising day. We set off for the Tolkuchka bazaar. This is the largest bazaar in Central Asia. Tarlan met us and we first went to his shops that sell silk scarves. Then we went off exploring - there were vendors of Turkmen carpets, Turkmen jewelry, national clothes, crafts. Everything was unique and original. We heard that even camels were sold there but didn't get to that section. So much shopping to be done and so little time! Back to the bus and off to Chuli. Here we spent a delightful afternoon on the grounds of a lovely resort facility. A wonderful lunch was prepared. Afterwards, we were free to wander the beautiful grounds and just relax! In the summer the resort becomes a camp for honor students. On our way home, we stopped at Ruhy Mosque, the biggest mosque in central Asia. Twenty thousand men and women can pray at the same

time. The floor of the mosque is covered by an enormous eight-sided carpet. Having four minarets and a golden dome, the mosque is surrounded with fountains and gardens. There is a mausoleum of the first President of Turkmenistan and his family located next to the mosque. Cont. page 7

Enjoying Lunch at "Turkmenistan Restaurant" are Kim Buckler & Raisa Amirdjanyant



Sally Alice Thompson (center) and friends in front of Turkmen State University



Computers for Chihuahua

Vic and Carol Dawley journeyed to the state of Chihuahua, Mexico at the end of September. Traveling with another couple, they first visited the rural village of San Lorenzo. Here two computers were given to the high school. These computers were donated by Armando Mayor, an ASCF member and Jason Wertz. A hard drive was donated by Sandia Labs Credit Union. The preschool children each received a baggie containing 8 new crayons. The elementary school principal received, on behalf of

his school, many supplies - crayons pens, pencils, protractors, flash cards, glue. They then traveled on to the City of Chihuahua where they enjoyed the Quinta Gameros and the Plaza de Armas with its Chihuahua dog statues. From here they rode the train through Copper Canyon; disembarking at Bahuichivo. Two delightfully peaceful nights were spent at the Mission Hotel in Cerocahui. The day trips included an outing to the highest lookout in Copper Canyon and then down to the bottom to visit the village of

Urique where the Tarahumara indigenous people live; and a horseback ride to the beautiful waterfall outside Cerocahui. They fell in love with Chihuahua - the people, the food, the scenery. Return they will!!!



Standing next to donated computer is Vic Dawley. Principal David Arroyos Moreno sitting.

Ashgabat Cont.

October 29th, the group formally met with the mayor of Ashgabat, Deryageldy Orazov and his 2 deputy mayors. A lawyer and an economist, the mayor was appointed by the President of Turkmenistan last May. He said that he was most happy to host our delegation and that we were able to participate in the Independence Celebration. Richard Buckler, ASCF 1st Vice President, gave a letter to Ashgabat's mayor from Mayor Chavez of Albuquerque. We all introduced ourselves and shared our positive impressions of Ashgabat - the hospitality, the beautiful new buildings, the many lovely fountains, the pride the citizens take in their city. The mayor spoke of the new buildings being erected. Priority is being given to assisting the residents of Ashgabat. The apartment buildings are not just a building but a complex which has schools as well as other facilities. Other new buildings consist of workplaces for ministries, new sports and cultural centers as well as more fountains

and parks. When asked what he liked best about his job, he immediately responded, "the work." He finds his job interesting but difficult. Although his staff works long hours, there is joy and satisfaction in what is being accomplished. Richard Buckler and the mayor discussed ideas for future exchanges - particularly in the area of sports, a healthy generation is a healthy future. Some sports the Turkmen excel in are wrestling, kickboxing, judo, soccer, volleyball, field and track, basketball and gymnastics. Oguljan Young, ASCF Chair for Ashgabat, presented the mayor with an engraved Nambeware piece. The mayor gave each delegation member a piece of Turkmen carpet, an embroidered hat (similar to what all Turkmen school children wear); an embroidered doiley and a huge book, "Nature of Turkmenistan."

Off to meet with the students of Turkmen State University, founded in 1931. The Director of the University welcomed us and we shared some thoughts with students of the English Language and International Relations departments.

After a wonderful lunch hosted by Tarlan, we went to visit a

school for hearing impaired children. The headmistress/director, appointed by the Minister of education, met with our group. The children were on holiday but we were able to tour the facility. The government assisted boarding school has 164 students and 100 adults working there, including 36 teachers. The students are artistically talented, their work being displayed throughout. In fact, the Ministry of Education made a calendar using the pictures the children had done. Each Saturday, they go to the Hippodrome where they are becoming good horseriders. The school teaches sign language (different from our American sign language) as well as lip reading. The headmistress said that she dreamed of being a teacher since childhood. She wants the children in her school to receive what others have - not just a diploma, but the knowledge and education that they need. We gave them some school art supplies - crayons, markers, glue.

That night the USA Ambassador Richard E. Hoagland hosted a reception in our honor. What a special treat! Afterwards, Aygozel Bekmiyeva hosted a dessert gathering. Aygozel works for Turkish Airlines and was with the group that came to Albuquerque last summer. It was good to visit with her again. And so all good things must come to an end. Early the next morning the plane departed, leaving good friends behind!



ASCF group and Ashgabat's mayor (3rd from left)

Taiwan's National Day of Celebration

October 10 is the National Day Celebration for the Republic of China (Taiwan). Here in Albuquerque the 96th National Day Celebration was held on October 11, 2007. The event, hosted by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles, was attended by ASCF board members. Yu-Lin Shen, President of the New Mexico Chinese Association was the master of ceremonies. After his welcome, the Lion Dance was performed to the delight of

those present. Mrs. Hui-Chun Lin sang the national anthems of the United States of America and of the Republic of China. Mr. Morgan Chao, Deputy Director General of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles greeted everyone and then gave two toasts - to Taipei and to the USA. Alberto Solis read a proclamation from Mayor Chavez; and Sidney Yen read a congratulatory letter from Representative Heather Wilson. Former Governor of New Mex-

ico, David Cargo, gave his greetings. Yu-Lin Shen introduced honored guests and the delegation from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles. The cake cutting ceremony followed with Mr. Morgan Chao and Mr. David Cargo doing the honors. All enjoyed the delicious fruit and hot appetizers and the socializing.



Sidney Yen, Chair of ASCF Hualin Committee and Morgan Chao, Deputy Director general of Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in LA.

A Meeting with State Senator Payne About Turkmenistan

by Richard Buckler

ASCF 1st Vice President Richard Buckler recently had the chance to meet with State Senator William Payne (District 20) in order to discuss Payne's recent trip to Turkmenistan. Senator Payne had been invited to attend the August opening of a new border crossing (Imannazar) between Turkmenistan and Afghanistan for which the U.S. government had funded the construction. Acting in his role as a rear admiral, Payne was the senior military officer present. Overall, Payne expressed how warmly he was received in the country. Senator Payne also confirmed the strategic importance of ongoing visits by Americans to Turkmenistan. Sister Cities visits thus can help expose Turkmen to another way of thinking, different from the restrictive policies of the former President Niyazov, who died December 2006.



Senator Payne and Richard Buckler

According to the U.S. State Department, the Turkmen people could experience increased prosperity and freedom, if reforms in economics and agriculture, democracy and human rights, education, security and energy are pursued. And Senator Payne agrees that organizations such as the Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation can perform a valuable service in helping the Turkmen people consider needed change. Even State Department spokesman, Evan Feigenbaum, sees the importance of sister cities. Feigenbaum (Deputy Assistant Secretary of State of South and Central Asian Affairs) in a recent speech given to the Carnegie Endowment singled out the importance of improving local city relationships in Turkmenistan. Feigenbaum expressed his hope that Ashgabat "explore cooperation on local government and reinvigorate sister-city relations with Albuquerque, New Mexico." The State Department has issued a formal invitation to Ashgabat's mayor to visit the United States and Albuquerque in the near future.



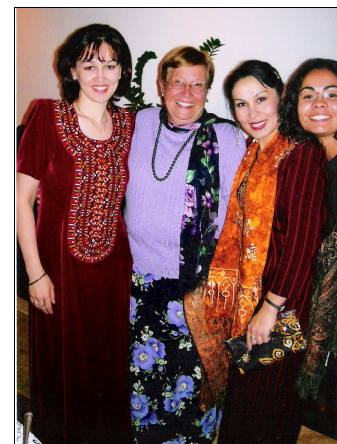
Ashgabat's mayor -
Richard Buckler and
Oguljan Young

Richard Buckler - Oguljan
Young - USA Ambassador -
Sally Alice Thompson



In front of School for Hard of
Hearing - Richard Buckler -
Director - Oguljan Young

Friends: Aygozel Bekmiybva -
Carol Dawley -
Enesh Tureshova (Carol's host) -
Oguljan Young





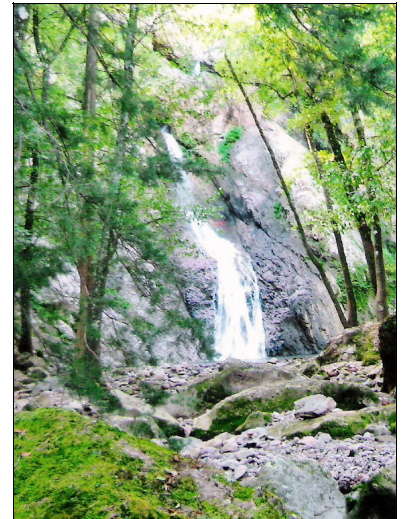
Alma Solis
presenting:
L- books to
Luis Urias
School
R - gifts to
Tarahumara
children



Chihuahua Dog



Carol Dawley distributing crayons at
a preschool in San Lorenzo, Mexico



Cerocahui Waterfall



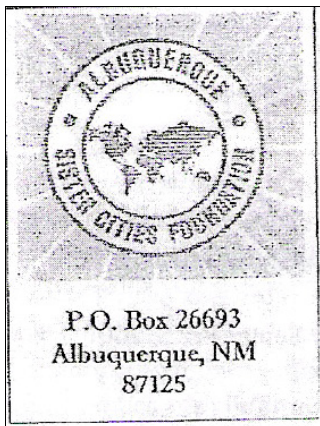
Checkpoint Charlie
Berlin, Germany



Vineyards of the Rhine
looking at Ludwigshöhe



Sign at entrance to Helmstedt



In This Issue...

Three wonderful cultural trips - Chihuahua, Mexico; Helmstedt, Germany and Ashgabat, Tukmenistan

Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION Annual Dues

Membership is: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

P.O. Box 26693
Albuquerque, NM 87125



- | | |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL ADULT | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AMBASSADOR (AGE 21-35) | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY | \$30.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL YOUTH (AGE 13-20) | \$ 7.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR CITIZEN (65 OR OLDER) | \$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SMALL BUSINESS (15 OR LESS EMPLOYEES) | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LARGE CORPORATION | \$300.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION | EXCHANGE |

NAME _____

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