

Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

Fall 2011

2011 - 2012

OFFICERS

President

Richard Buckler
291-8175
rbuckler3@comcast.net

1st V. President

Robert Montoya
352-6453
robdolmon7@msn.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

ASCF youth who served
at the Concert.

More photos Page 7

City of Albuquerque September Concert 2011 Celebration

By: Richard Buckler and
Dave Bagley

On September 10, 2011, as part of the 10th Annual September Concert Foundation worldwide celebration of peace and humanity through music, the Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation (ASCF) presented a two hour concert that featured its Asian Sister Cities: Ashgabat, Turkmenistan; Hualien, Taiwan; Lanzhou, China and Sasebo, Japan.

Partnering with ASCF and its many youth and adult volunteers were several organizations. The City of Albuquerque provided the venue (South Broadway Cultural Center) and the technicians. Piano Werkes donated the grand piano while local musicians and dancers were the performers. Over 200 people attended, including City of Albuquerque Cultural Af-

fairs Director Beatriz Rivera. Also, a special Open World delegation of Turkmen business women from Ashgabat were in the audience.

Tatiana Vetrinskaya, representing Ashgabat, opened the concert with classical piano music written by Turkmen composer Redjep Allyarov. Then, representing Hualien, accomplished operatic soprano, Chaco Lin, and Pei-Pei Chu, pianist, performed some songs including Taiwanese melodies "Dancing Under the Moon" and "Flowing Creek." Representing Lanzhou was the Albuquerque Chinese Christian Church who performed a lovely Purple Bamboo Folk Dance. Also representing Lanzhou, Yi Fan, a Pipa soloist from University of New Mexico Chinese Student Friendship Association, showed her skill on the ancient four-string instrument and kept the audience spell-bound by the speed of her strumming. Finishing off

the Lanzhou section were the graceful dancers from the Chinese Culture Center and Lin's Martial Arts Academy performing a beautiful ribbon dance.

After a brief intermission in which the audience had a chance to support earthquake relief in Japan as well as buy baked goodies from ASCF's youth; the crowd was called back into the auditorium with the theme song, "Give us Hope." Award-winning Tsuguru Shamisen composer/player Mike Penny then continued with a variety of Japanese selections on this traditional three-string instrument, concluding his part by performing his rendition of Bach's 1st Symphony, a masterful feat, not for the faint of heart.

Lastly, to represent Sasebo were the New Mexico Taiko Drummers, led by Calvin Kobayashi, a long-time board member of the New Mexico Japanese American Citizens League. The audience enjoyed both the symmetry and beauty of the "taiko" style.

For a special ending attendees were invited out to the parking lot to witness a "peace-dove" release, presented by Dr. Hakim Zamir of Afghanistan.



2011 - 2012 Chairs

Albuquerque, Spain
Eva Gonzales
 296-2572
 evagonzalesc@gmail.com

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
Ogulijan 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@gmail.com

Helmstedt, Germany
Nathan Young
 977-6033
 nathaneyoung@gmail.com

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

Lanzhou, China
David Hsi
 345-3866
 davidnkathyhsi@aol.com

Rehovot, Israel
Vacant

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

Youth Coordinators

David Buckler
 270-8191
 bucklerd@comcast.net

Gina Solis
 974-3352
 georginasolis@gmail.com

From the President's Desk...

Thanksgiving! For more than two centuries, Americans have set aside a special day in the autumn to remember all of their blessings of provision and friendship, just as those first Plymouth colonists and Wampanaog native Americans sat down together in 1621 to share an autumn harvest feast. Even though it wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November, the message of multicultural friendship has always been a major part of American life.

All of us that are part of Albuquerque Sister Cities certainly endorse any opportunity to promote the multicultural relationships enjoyed with our friends across the world. Yet, we are humbled by the extravagant hospitality we often receive when visiting these friends. We know first-hand the wonderful people and warm hearts we find. For example, our recent delegation that visited Ashgabat to participate in the 20 year celebration of independence for Turkmenistan, once again experienced the high-level of Turkmen friendship.

The friendships we make in these settings last for a life-time. (See photo taken on this recent trip of my first host family from 1996, the Amirdjanyans. Now even with children grown we remain good friends, though separated by 17,000 miles.) On this trip, we had many opportunities to share our lives and stories. We were served like royalty, entertained with top-notch musicians and inspired by the toasts that flowed so freely.

So, as we sit down to eat, talk, share with our loved ones this Thanksgiving, I hope our times of sharing and eating, of provision and friendship, continue to reflect the wonderful universal values embodied by the word "Friend." As an organization, we want to encourage such friendship amongst ourselves so plan to come on out to our first activity of 2012 (January 14) and relax and enjoy cookies and teas (or Chai) for a few hours together. Until then, may your holiday season be blessed, fun and filled with friends.

Richard

Richard Buckler



Richard Buckler reacquainting with his first host family from 1996, now life-time friends—the Amirdjanyans. L to R: Robert, Raisa, Vilena, Richard Buckler and Sasha. Violetta, a daughter and Artom, a son are not pictured.

ASCF Youth Attend SCI Regional Conference

By Gina Solis

A delegation of eight students from ASCF Youth group, led by Youth Chair Gina Solis, attended the 2011 SCI Regional Conference in Riverside, California from September 30th thru October 1st. The focus was on Pacific Rim business and education. Our delegates were able to network with Youth Mentors and other youth from Sister Cities around the region. The conference began with Riverside's Mayor Ronald O. Loveridge unveiling a new park

sign that reflected the sister cities of Riverside. The delegates were then guided to a vibrant Welcome reception for dinner, which set the tone to the keynote address and sessions that took place the next day. The opportunity to experience Sister Cities on both a regional and international level was the positive exposure that our Albuquerque youth were able to build from and continue for stronger ties between cultures and communities of the world.



ASCF youth by new Riverside, CA sister cities sign.

ASCF Travel Opportunities

Dust off your passport! ASCF has some great trips planned!

ALBURQUERQUE, SPAIN

September 30–October 14, 2012. Itinerary will include arrival in Lisbon, Portugal and travel onto Badajoz/Albuquerque, where we will spend 3-4 days. Departure will be from Madrid with points of interest in Extremadura and Andalucia, i.e. Sevilla the Alcazar and el barrio de Santa Cruz (which was the departure point of many of the Spanish adven-

tures to the new world); Cordoba, a center of culture, art and architecture during the Almohad occupation with the largest mosque in the world outside of Mecca; possibly Granada; Toledo and of course, Madrid. If interested, please contact Albuquerque Chair, Eva Gonzales at 296-2572 or email her at: evagonzalesc@gmail.com

HELMSTEDT, GERMANY

Tentative dates for this trip are September 21 to October 1, 2012. Note: There are wine fests and beer fests at this time. If interested, please contact Helmstedt Chair, Nathan Young at 977-6033 or

email him at: nathaneyoung@gmail.com

ALBURQUERQUE and HELMSTEDT

Sept. 21–Oct. 14. Instead of going home on Oct. 1, fly to Lisbon and meet the incoming group. The ultimate sister cities experience.

SASEBO, JAPAN–YOUTH TRIP

July 2012. Any youth interested should contact Pam Feather, Sasebo Co-Chair at 771-8255/980-5886 cell or email her at: pjfeather@earthlink.net

CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO

May 2012. Participate in the opening of the Second Elementary School Bilingual Library in Chihuahua and tour Copper Canyon. If inter-

ASCF International Tea and Cookies

YOU ARE INVITED

What: International Tea and Cookies

When: Saturday, January 14, 2012

1 PM–3 PM

Where: Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center

501 Elizabeth Street SE

Cost: FREE

ASCF is hosting a membership get together on Saturday January 14, 2012 at the Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center.

Each of our sister cities' committees will be there to share some special cookies and tea and information about their programs.

This event is open to the public. Please bring a friend with you and share the excitement of Sister Cities and its many international opportunities.

ASCF Members Visit Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

By Judy Love

Cloaked until recently in the exotic vastness of Central Asia, Turkmenistan has long-standing ties with Albuquerque through the Ashgabat Sister Cities program. Because Sally Alice Thompson established strong ties to the city in the mid-1980's, many valuable mutual exchanges have taken place over the years.

For 10 days in late October, five of us from Albuquerque (Richard Buckler, Sally Alice Thompson, Alana McGrattan, Frank and Judy Love) and Karin Cyriel (Chair of Helmstedt, Germany sister city committee) from Helmstedt represented ASCF at the celebration of Turkmenistan's 20th anniversary of independence from the former Soviet Union. And, how well they "do" celebrations!

Because of this long and productive relationship, we were given VIP treatment at all of their festivities; and we were welcomed into their homes like family. Many friendships from previous exchanges were renewed at home-hosted lunches and dinners.

Blessed with vast wealth from oil, gas and minerals, the country, with strong leadership from a highly popular President, is poised to assume a significant position on the world stage. The people are self-confident and seek every opportunity to improve themselves. (Highly publicized in the US press was the recent gift of a laptop computer to every first-grader in the country.)

Nestled next to Afghanistan and Iran, the country has avoided any political or religious turmoil or aggression. They maintain a strong independence and strict neutrality to avoid any future conflict. However, they keep a strong military arsenal, as witness in their Independence Day Parade, and are prepared to defend against any aggression.

US Ambassador Robert Patterson honored us at a reception/dinner at his residence along with our hosts, friends who had recently visited Albuquerque through an open World program and other longtime friends...and what seemed to be his entire staff. At three other official events, we were honored

to be in the Ambassador's company.

Speaking before a class of future diplomats at the recently-opened and lavishly appointed Institute of International relations, we were able to discuss matters affecting both of our countries. These students are receiving the finest training to represent their country both in person and through the media.

New buildings were being dedicated, almost daily, during the month of October; and in one afternoon a marriage registry building, a 5-star hotel and a stadium, all in close proximity to each other, were opened with great fanfare and ceremony to throngs of people. That evening, as VIP guests in the packed stadium, we witnessed a performance which could easily rival any Olympic Opening Ceremony.

ASCF is fortunate to have such wonderful friends through our relationship with Ashgabat, and we look forward to expanding future exchanges.



ASCF delegation in front of Turkmenbashi's Ruhmetkhan Mosque In Kipchak. L to R: Richard Buckler, Karin Cyriel; Mosque's tour guide; Alana McGrattan; Sally-Alice Thompson; Durdy Atayev, Richard's host; Judy Love and Frank Love



Richard Buckler and US Ambassador Robert Patterson. Photo taken at the Ambassador's residence on the evening he hosted a reception for the ASCF delegation.

Alana McGrattan and the Director of Turkmenistan's National Library, Gozelece Muhammetkuliyeva



Four Turkmen Visit Albuquerque on Open World Grant

By Bill Myer

From September 9-17, 2011, four business women from Turkmenistan visited Albuquerque. The delegates, Ms. Kymbat Duysenbayeva, Ms. Oguljahan Bayramovna Kuliyeve, Ms. Maya Orazmuradova and Ms. Jahan Nurberdiyeva were interested in comparing business techniques and sharing challenges in common.

On Sept. 10th, Deborah Gagnon, owner of two Tomato Café restaurants in Albuquerque welcomed the women. She talked about her business and how computer programs greatly improved her financial management of her businesses.

Sept. 12th was a busy day. First was a visit to New Mexico School of Music. Owner, Tatiana Vetrinskaya is a former resident of Turkmenistan. Over a continental breakfast, Tatiana described in detail her finances, building, mortgage and student challenges. Next was a visit to ACCION. Founded in 1994, ACCION has financed the start-up and/or growth of 3,111 businesses. The organization serves entrepreneurs in 253 urban and rural NM, AZ and CO communities. Lynn Trojahn, ACCION Vice-President of Advancement provided a detailed description of microlending in the US. After lunch, the group went to "The Silver Butterfly," a tourist shop in Old Town owned by Linda Hudson. Linda described her business philosophy and history. Late afternoon saw the women meeting with GAAR (Greater Albuquerque Association

of Realtors). Janie Gilmore-Daniels and 12 area realtors provided afternoon tea/coffee and desserts. In an animated two and a half hour discussion, experiences in the real estate field were shared.

After visiting City Hall, on Sept. 13th, the group went to WESST (Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Team) where Agnes Noonan and Doug Lee welcomed them. WESST is a non-profit hub for entrepreneurship and small business development. It offers state-of-the-art amenities and business assistance programs for its member companies, and any NM resident needing guidance or capital to start or grow a business. The guests asked many questions and showed a great deal of interest in the information offered. Lunch was at the Church Street Café in Old Town. Marie Coleman welcomed the guests to her restaurant, which is housed in what was a residence, dating from the 1700's. She totally restored the building which was crumbling and still had dirt floors. Marie discussed typical New Mexican food, its origin and preparation, and gave the group a kitchen tour. After lunch there was a docent-led tour of the Albuquerque Museum. Then came the "Blue Portal," a shop which sells exclusively, unique items created by talented senior citizens. The women found it interesting that a philanthropic organization like Assistance League encourages seniors and provides an outlet for their creations.

In the morning of Sept. 14th, the group

visited the Bio Park, Aquarium and Zoo. They had the opportunity to "go behind the scenes" which included petting a 3,500 lb. Rhino and feeding the kangaroos. After a box lunch at Tingley Beach, they met with Costco managers - Monica Luna, Loretta Nunez and Alicia Hernandez. The delegates were impressed by the opportunities women had at Cosco. Next stop was Aurora Publishing, an exclusive manufacturer of "magic" decals which stick to any surface without having a sticky backing. The owners, Melanie and Matt Fritzsche described the marketing business and manufacturing challenges of trying to survive while finding their niche.

It was off to the Pueblo of Acoma on Sept. 15th. After the tour, the group went to the restaurant there. Lee Marmom, a NM living treasure and photographer from Laguna Pueblo visited with them during lunch, telling many stories. After leaving Acoma, they stopped in To'ohajalee at the Apache Canyon Bed and Breakfast. Here, Ms. Bowers talked about her business history.

Santa Fe and the Museum of International Folk Art were on the agenda for Sept. 16th. The Collections Manager Paul Smutko showed the Central Asian textile collection—small but extraordinary. Joining them for lunch was Joyce Begay-Foss, Education Director at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture. Joyce gave the group a personal tour of her museum.

ASCF members met the Turkmen at three evening receptions. They were hosted by Bill & Mellie Myer, Jim & Jean Genasci and Richard and Mary Hope Buckler.

THANK YOU to ASCF hosts for housing our visitors: Alana McGrattan, Patricia & Arvin White, Sally-Alice Thompson and Oguljan & Nathan Young.



At the Aquarium.
L to R: Jahan ,
Kymbat, Maya
and Oguljahan

Betty Rivera, City of Albuquerque Cultural Affairs Director met with the Turkmen businesswomen. L to R: Richard Buckler, Artem Artyushkov (translator), Kymbat, Betty Rivera, Maya, Oguljahan, Sherri Brueggesson, City Manager of Public Art and Jahan.



ASCF Float in Albuquerque Christmas Parade December 3, 2012

By Dave Bagley

The float structure was built Oct. 22. Carl Londene and his daughter Denise Baker designed the float, making drawings to work from. Carl purchased the lumber and hardware. Dave Bagley purchased the lights (2,000 for the float and 1,000 for the vehicle pulling the float). Helping construct the frame were Nathan Young, Bob Montoya, Carl Londene, Dave Bagley, Randy & Denise Baker and their daughters. Randy let the group use his trailer, tools and "Man Cave" (his large garage.) He will also use one

of his company trucks to pull the trailer in the parade.

ASCF members (youth and adults) can help finish the float. Nov. 19 and 26 are set aside to decorate with lights, garland, stuffed toys, etc. Contact Carl Londene at 877-1491 or email: celondene1@q.com for details.

PARADE: Dec. 3rd 5:15 PM Starts at Tingley Park, goes north to Central Ave., east to 3rd and north 1/2 blocks to terminate.



ASCF members constructing the float frame on the Londene and Baker farm.

ASCF Seeking an African Friendship City

ASCF has formed a committee to look into having an African friendship city. The committee members, Richard Buckler, Bill & Mellie Myer, Vic & Carol Dawley and Dr. Harold Bailey are looking at a city in Zambia and/or Namibia.



At the Office of African American Affairs (OAAA). L to R: Dr. Harold Bailey, Executive Director of the NM OAAA; King Nzamane of the Ngoni people, Zambia; King Mukuni of the Toka Leya People, Zambia; Pastor Andrew Chapman, representing King Mwamba of the Bemba people, Zambia; and Gary Williams, Deputy Director of OAAA



Albuquerque City Hall. L to R: King Mukuni of the Toka Leya people, Mayor Richard Berry; King Nzamane of the Ngoni people, and Pastor Andrew Chapman, representing King Mwamba of the Bemba people

Celebration of Israel's Independence Day

April 26, 2012 7 PM

Jewish Community Center, 5530 Wyoming Blvd. NE

Special performance by nationally acclaimed and Albuquerque-based Keshet Dance featuring professional dancers from Albuquerque and Rehovot, Israel, our sister city.

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of NM and Albuquerque Sister Cities.

For further info contact the Jewish Federation at 821-3214

CHIHUAHUA ACTIVITIES

by Alma Solis

Sept. 15, 2012, Alma Solis, Chair of Chihuahua Committee welcomed a Chihuahua Honorary Band that came to Albuquerque to celebrate Mexico Independence. The 40 members celebrated at UNM outside the MECA & Student Union Buildings.

Oct. 8 & 9 Alma was in Chihuahua, representing the City of Albuquerque for Chihuahua's Mayor Marcos Quezada's Address of the City.

Nov. 11 was the 10th Fiesta del Globo (Balloon Fiesta) in Chihuahua, with balloonist from Albuquerque participating. ASCF helps make this event possible.

Photos from the September Concert



Representing Ashgabat, Turkmenistan: Tatiana Vetrinskaya, pianist



Representing Hualien, Taiwan: Pei-Pei, pianist and Chaco Lin, soloist



Representing Lanzhou, China: Chinese Culture Center and Lin's Martial Arts Academy—Ribbon Dance



Representing Lanzhou, China: Albuquerque Chinese Christian Church—Purple Bamboo Folk Dance



Representing Lanzhou, China: Yi Fan, Pipa Soloist, UNM Chinese Student Friendship Association



Representing Sasebo, Japan: Mike Penny, Tsugaru Shamisen Soloist



Representing Sasebo, Japan: Calvin Kobayashi and the NM Taiko Drummers, an affiliate of NM Japanese American Citizens League

Albuquerque Sister Cities
P.O. Box 26533
Albuquerque, NM
87125-6533

IN THIS ISSUE: SEPT. CONCERT. TURKMENISTAN VISIT AND TRIP. TWINKLE LIGHT PARADE.

PO Box 26533
Albuquerque, NM 87125-6533
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