

Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

Fall 2013

ASCF Members Visit Guadalajara

2013—2014 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

At the end of October, seven ASCF members led by Dr. Jose Luis Cruz-Campa visited our sister city, Guadalajara, Mexico. They were Tara McCune, Carol and Vic Dawley, William and Natalia Koup and Marie Keller.

Guadalajara—the gem of Jalisco, Mexico! Like a fine jewel with many facets, Guadalajara has many faces/aspects: International in flavor, it is rich in history, culture, arts and crafts and a variety of food. Its concern for its citizens and progressive thinking has led to economic growth. And its warm hospitality is ever present.

Greeting us at the airport was Adriana Parra, Guadalajara's chair for Albuquerque-Guadalajara sister city relationship. Together with our luggage,



Meeting with
Guadalajara Sister
Cities . Oct. 30

we piled into our rented van and headed for the city's historic downtown and our hotel. But, first a restaurant, a pozoleria, to sample traditional Mexican food—pozole.

Using a local guide, Jorge G. Castro, the group had a walking tour of the historic area next morning. Guadalajara is a modern city that has not lost its Mexican flavor. Founded in 1542, it owes its name to the Spanish conqueror, Nino Beltran de Guzman who was from Guadalajara, Spain.

At 2 pm we arrived at "Parque Metropolitano" where we participated in a food tasting and cultural event coordinated by the Sister Cities of Guadalajara. We sampled food from many countries and enjoyed international entertainment. ASCF sent items that were displayed at their sister cities booth. From here the group went to Tlaguepaque. It is the arts and crafts center of the area. As we strolled the extensive car-free zone, we viewed many statues and some fine sculptures.

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Helmstedt, Germany Sends Delegation to Honor 30 years as Sister Cities

The eight-member Helmstedt delegation arrived in Albuquerque late Thursday, Oct. 3, 2013. The next day their host families showed them around the area and that night there was a Thanksgiving dinner—

turkey and all the trimmings. Ray and Hedy Heidfeld hosted the group in their beautiful new home. It was festively decorated with pumpkins and mums and the flags of Germany, USA and New Mexico were proudly flown. Saturday everyone

was up early in the morning to meet Mayor Berry at the balloon fiesta mass ascension. Mayor Berry announced over the PA system to all balloon attendees that Oct. 5 was declared Helmstedt day.

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From the President's Desk...

Reaching Beyond Borders

Are you a Millennial? That is a question asked and answered in part by the pollster Dr. John Zogby, recently visiting the University of New Mexico as part of International Week. Probably most of us reading these comments are not Millennials, i.e. those born since 1981, and who according to Zogby, are the largest growing group in the U.S. and the world. We must “embrace” this group, learning how to engage, communicate, and employ these citizens, according to Zogby. Successful embracing will require a “nimble” mind-set and effective communication. It’s not email anymore, according to Zogby, but rather (you guessed it) social networking, tweeting, even texting preferred over personal phone calls. So, if we want to be relevant to the youth and young professionals of our world, and more importantly pass on the vision of

using friendship as a tool of citizen diplomacy, we need to “reach beyond our current borders.”

Reaching beyond borders is what Sister Cities does. We reach out beyond politics, religion and cultural differences, as we seek common ground. Case in point: Albuquerque Sister Cities partners both with Lanzhou, China and Hualien, Taiwan. Double Ten celebrations in October during our balloon fiesta gave us a chance to host a visit by Hualien County’s Director General of Tourism and Public Relations, Ms. I-Shun Su. In a week six officials from Lanzhou, China will visit Albuquerque for a day and participate in municipal planning sessions at the city geared to share ideas in city development and planned expansions.

Also during the balloon fiesta, we received a delegation from Helmstedt, Germany, led by former

Mayor Eisermann. In September and October two ASCF trips were taken to Mexico—one to our sister city, Chihuahua and the other to another of our sister cities, Guadalajara. Meanwhile, our friends at Inquiry Facilitators are on their way to Albuquerque, Spain over Thanksgiving week to train Spanish teachers and students in Robotic competitions. Special thanks to Mayor Vaddillo and his staff in receiving the group as we all work toward promoting science and technology based activities in the Extremadura area of Spain.

Ready to dance? I hope you had a chance to see the Israeli dancers in action at the new Keshet Dance studio on November 12. We were one of the sponsors. Also get ready for 70 plus Turkmen dancers/musicians coming to Albuquerque on December 6 to give our citizens a free concert at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Hope to see you there as your sister cities organization continues to “reach beyond its borders.”

Richard

Visits from Chihuahua— Marching Band, Artisans and Runners

Sept. 14—17—Albuquerque welcomed two cultural groups from our sister city, Chihuahua, Mexico. A high school band came to celebrate Mexico Independence festivities officiated by Mexico’s Consul Mauricio Ibarra. The band participated in 3 celebrations—UNM Campus, Washington Middle School and Santa Fe. (Right: performing in Santa Fe, while NM Attorney Gen. Gary King looks on).

A group of Tarahumara artisans and runners from Chihuahua came for a cultural and running expo event which was held in Santa Fe. (see picture page 4)



CHAIRS:

Albuquerque, Spain
Eva Gonzales
296-2572
evagonzalesc@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
jocampa@yahoo.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
Janice Moranz
417-3787
janicemoranz@comcast.net

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

Mayor's Appointee
to ASCF Board:
Randy Trask—
Manager of Albuquerque-Bernalillo
Trade Alliance and
Encuentro president.

ASCF Members Visit Chihuahua

Sept. 17-29, 2013, Alma Solis, Chihuahua Chair, lead ASCF members on a trip to Chihuahua. Those in the group were David and Kathy Hsi, Ann and John Heard, Linda and Li Louie and Chuck Larrabe. Starting with ASCF sister city Chihuahua, they visited the city historical sites (I.e. Poncho Villa Museum) and attended city festivities. There was an official reception hosted by Chihuahua's government. Next came a ride through Copper Canyon on Mexico's only passenger train, the Chihuahua Pacifico nicknamed the "Chepe." In the village of Cusarare, they saw the Cusarare Waterfalls and had lunch with a Tarahumara family in their home. They also went into an existing livable cave where a family and their ancestors have been living for 250 years. At the train stop, El Fuerte Sinaloa, they took a colorful ride on the El Fuerte River which took them to the Mayan Petroglyphs. The weather at this location was 90 degrees with high humidity. They also visited the Mennonite Camps in Cuauhtemoc where they purchased some cheese, sausage and baked goods.

Alma thanks the "amazing and wonderful" group. She admires their knowledge, experience and compassion that made the trip a successful and productive journey.



Cusarare Waterfalls



The "Chepe" going through Copper Canyon



Boat ride on the El Fuerte River.

Cultural & Humanitarian Trip to Chihuahua

Alma Solis lead another group to Chihuahua and Copper Canyon Oct. 17-24. This group took donations to the village of the Tarahumara group that comes once a year to be part of the Santa Fe Cultural Run. The gifts focused on the health and education of children. It included 100 school backpacks full of school supplies; 100 solar lamps (for the children that don't have electricity); 100 solar calculators; 200 shirts; 9 boxes of school supplies; 10 non-

destructible soccer balls and lots of fresh fruit purchased in Chihuahua for the children. There was also an additional 100 school backpacks full of school supplies donated by the Honorable Billy Mills, former Olympian Gold Medal runner. This was a successful trip thanks to the good hearted people who have made an official commitment to assist the Tarahumara children in Chihuahua.

More Pictures...



At the opening day of Balloon Fiesta, Mayor Berry presents proclamations to Hualien County Director General of Tourism Ms. I-Shun Su and Helmstedt Chair Karin Cyrol.



David and Kathy Hsi enjoying the beautiful El Fuerte Sinola train station.



Above: Member Li Lee Louie poses with Poncho Villa's statue in Chihuahua.

Below: Japan's New Mexico Honorary Consul Davis Begay and wife Ikuko meet the Tarahumara Indians from Chihuahua, Mexico at Mexican Independence Day celebrations in Santa Fe. ASCF helped sponsor the visit.





Craig Pendelton, pilot of "Spirit in the Sky", meets Helmstedt's former mayor Heinz-Deiter Eisermann and his wife Barbel at the Balloon Glow.







TURKMENISTAN Culture Days

2013

Hosted by
ALBUQUERQUE SISTER CITIES FOUNDATION









**FOLKLORE MUSIC AND DANCE OF
TURKMENISTAN**

**Friday, December 6th, 2013,
6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Venue:
Hyatt Regency Downtown
330 Tijeras Ave
Albuquerque, NM 87102
Donations Accepted at the Door

Get ready for a great sister city performance. Led by Mrs. Guncha Mammedova, Turkmenistan's Minister of Culture, 70 Turkmen dancers/musicians will join local performers such as Nakotah and Steve LaRance-Native American World Champion Hoop Dance Performance-and the National Institute of Flamenco to celebrate Turkmen Culture days here in Albuquerque.

Paid parking at Civic Plaza underground garage., Hyatt Regency, and other city lots.

Guadalajara

(continued from Page 1)

Departing at 9 am the next morning, we traveled to the city of Tequila, a World Heritage site. Tequila is Mexico's national drink. We toured the Jose Cuervo plant. First we headed to the fields and then back to the plant to learn the process of making this iconic drink. The group learned how to differentiate between tequilas and yes, we sampled the final product.

Arriving back at our hotel, we changed clothes and went for dinner at the home of Enrique and Ceci Navarro. The Navarro's graciously welcomed us. Here we enjoyed an intimate dinner with music on their patio featuring Ceci's special cream of chipolte chicken.

Leaving at 11 am the next day, we traveled to Tlajomulco. At the modern city hall, we met with economic development officials. As we sipped coffee and tasted fresh fruit, we learned about the city. With a population about the size of Albuquerque's, it is building industrial parks for pharmaceutical and biotech companies. Public safety and employment are important issues for them. They are working with the local university to develop an electric-powered bus system. They believe in reforestation, planting an average of 8 trees a day and encouraging roof-top gardens. To see that all children receive an education, they offer free school uniforms and supplies. There are free special schools for the children as well—ballet, mariachi, orchestra, puppet, swimming, soccer and volleyball. They also have local artisans working in polished pottery and stone carving. We each received a key chain made of horse hair. Mayor Ismael del Castro stopped by to welcome



Jose Cuervo agave fields.

us.

An architect, Jorge Suarez invited us to lunch at the Palacio de Castilla. Such a delightful individual and so passionate about his work! Following this we met with municipal officials from Zapopan. They talked about how modern their community was (i.e. the high-tech, electronic corridor and the site for the new soccer stadium for the Guadalajara team "Chivas"). The average age of its citizens is about 28. We were offered coffee and sweet breads. Each of us received a colorful woven bag filled with "dulces" (sweets). When we left, we visited the Basilica of Zapopan. In the evening we dined with some professors and representatives from the University of Guadalajara at "La Tequilla." As we supped, we learned more about the second largest university in Mexico with a student body of 226,000. Created in 1792, it is an autonomous and public institution, structured as a network of university centers of higher education, high school



Tlajomulco—Alonso Parra; Adriana Parra; Jose Luis Cruz-Campa; Joana Sinai Santillan Alvarez, Dir/ Economic Development; Antonio Salazar Gomez, Strategic Projects Coordinator and Luis Eduardo de la Mora.

education and a virtual university.

Just after a late breakfast, we visited Oleofinos/IMASA for a tour of their production plant. IMASA makes a variety of products from cooking oils to baked goods to toiletries for hotels. We saw the margarine and canola oil process. They gave us some just-from-the-oven sweet bread (conchas) baked in their test kitchen. As we savored every bit of it, we saw a promo video. Then, donning a hair net, we toured the factory itself. Afterwards, our guide, Guillermo G. Dubost hosted a lunch for us at "La Estancia Gaucha," an Argentinian restaurant. The beef here was especially good. (cont. p.7)



Zapopan—Roberto Carlos Rivera Miramontes, Adriana Parra, Jose Luis Cruz-Campa, Maria Margarita Alfaro Aranguren and Enrique Torres Ibarra



Basilica of Zapopan - L. to R.: Bill Koup, Marie Keller, Jose Luis Cruz-Campa, Carol Dawley, Tara McCune, Alonso Parra, Adriana Parra and Natalia Koup



Dinner with representatives of the University of Guadalajara—L.to R.: Mtro. Cesar Ernesto Gonzalez Coronado, Evelyn Cortes Gonzalez, Dr. Mildred Alcaraz, Jose Luis Cruz-Campa, Marco Gurrola, Alonso Castillo Perez and Dr. Raul Campos.

At the “Uno” restaurant, we joined members of Guadalajara sister cities for supper for an evening of Camaraderie and friendship. Adriana presented each of us with a small wooden art filled with cookies and nuts.



Dinner with Guadalajara sister cities—L. to R.: Carol Dawley, Adriana Parra, Vic Dawley and Jose Luis Cruz-Campa.

Receiving us at the Guadalajara City Hall/Palacio Municipal on Oct. 30 were municipal officials and Guadalajara sister cities officers. Diego Delfin gave a presentation on the “creative digital city” which will start being built in 2014. As a three-phase project, Guadalajara will be working with many international companies on the innovative concept. We all expressed a desire for a closer and more active relationship between our two cities. We also had the opportunity to meet Linda Caruso from the US Consulate. Snacking on sandwiches, our van headed west to Guachimontones. Only excavated in the past ten years, it is now a UNESCO World Heritage site. Over 2,000 years old, it is known for its unique ceremonial centers in the form of concentric circles. At its height, the complex was the cultural center for West Mexico. Back in Guadalajara, we dressed for the ballet Folklorico performance in the Degollado theater. The inside of the theater was magnificent and the performance itself was even greater. At the close of the show, we met the Minister of Culture who said he was interested in bringing the ballet Folklorico to Albuquerque. A fond farewell to the Parra family and we headed back to our hotel for our last night in Guadalajara.

Adios Guadalajara. With the morning free, every one set out in different directions—a ride in a calandria (horse and buggy) around the city; eating some birria (goat and lamb with tomato) at Nine Corners restaurant; visiting with family or just shopping. After lunch, we boarded the van for the six hour trip to Puerto Vallarta. At last, fiesta Americana—our destination for the next few nights. Once there, we relaxed and reflected on a wonderful visit to our sister city, Guadalajara.

Special thank you to Jose Luis Cruz-Campa for arranging this fabulous trip and to the Parra family—Alonso, Carmen and Adriana for making this trip so extra special.



IMASA—Company baker and Guillermo G. Dubost



Guadalajara Chair Jose Luis Cruz-Campa and wife Tara McCune represent ASCF at the Parque Metropolitano gastrinomial event Day 1 of their Guadalajara trip.

Helmstedt

(continued from page 1)

Mayor Berry presented a plaque to the Helmstedt delegation honoring 30 years of being sister cities. That evening hosts and visitors dined at the Eidelweis German American Club which was celebrating Oktoberfest.

On Sunday, all enjoyed an afternoon reception at Richard Buckler's house, followed by attending the balloon glow and exciting fireworks. Monday was a day trip to Santa Fe—walking tour to see the downtown sights. Karin Cyrol, being a hot air balloon pilot herself, opted to go to the balloon fiesta and she and Dave Bagley had the opportunity to crew for a balloon team. A visit to the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center and the Museum of Natural History and Science with its Titanic exhibit filled the day. That night, Carl Londene hosted a farewell barbecue. There was lots of delicious food, a special cake and live music (three member band and Ruben Vail, a guitarist). On Wednesday the guests departed, heading west to Las Vegas, Nevada with stops at Acoma, Monument Valley and the glass walk over the Grand Canyon. A special thanks to the Albuquerque hosts—Ray and Hedy Heidfeld hosting Ulrike and Detlof Weddig; Nathan and Oguljan Young hosting Karin Cyrol; Carl Londene hosting Christina and Jens Eppler; Karen Batie hosting Sabina Klippenstein and Denise and Randy Baker hosting Barbel and Heinz Dieter, past mayor of Helmstedt.



Heinz Dieter, holding plaque from Mayor Berry; Richard Buckler and chairs of Helmstedt-Albuquerque Karin Cyrol and Nathan Young.



The group & their hosts



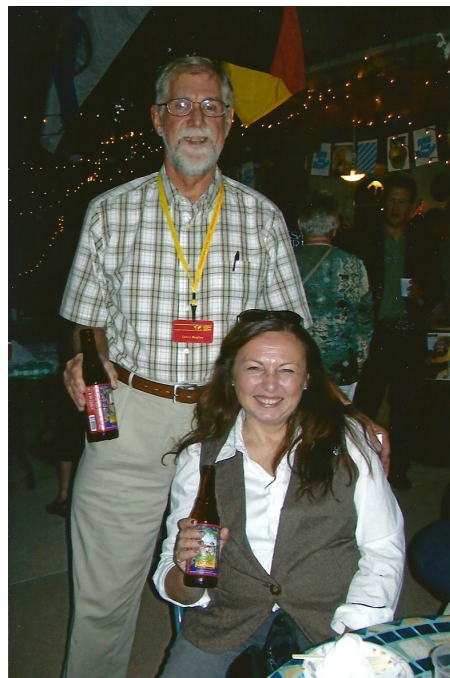
Karin Cyrol and Nathan Young display photo collage from Helmstedt to Albuquerque



Barbel Dieter and Sabina Klippenstein display southwest ornaments from ASCF



Nathan Young and Karin Cyrol assist Heinz-Dieter in cutting the cake.



Below: Two balloonists, local member Dave Bagley and Helmstedt Chair Karin Cyrol, share some good times during Helmstedt's October visit to Albuquerque. The delegation, led by former Mayor Eisermann, celebrated 30 years of twinning with Albuquerque.

Upcoming Events

- Monday, November 25, 2013—Dinner with Lanzhou, China officials at Ho Lo Ma restaurant—8624 Menaul Blvd.—Prepaid RSVP by Nov. 22 required: \$18. Email notice was sent asking RSVP to be made by check to ASCF—P.O. Box 26533—Albuquerque, NM 87125-6533. After Nov. 22 call Ho Lo Ma directly at 296-1271.
- Friday, December 6 — Turkmen folkloric dance/music performance, with local participation by Native American Hoop Dancer Nakotah LaRance, and National Institute of Flamenco.—Hyatt Downtown Ballroom—6-8 pm—free—open to public.
- Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014—International Tea—Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center—12:30—2:30 PM—free—open to public. Call Carol Dawley if questions: 883-9516.
- Late February, 2014—Friendship City signing between City of Albuquerque and Lusaka, Zambia. Date subject to change.
- Spring, 2014—Trip to Rehovot, Israel and dedication of new performing arts center. Details forthcoming.
- April 30-May 4—Robot Academy—adult robot competition—more information at www.gotoif.org
- May 1-3, 2014—RoboRave—youth robot competition—more information at www.gotoif.org
- Late summer 2014—ASCF trip to Helmstedt, Germany—if interested, contact Nathan Young at 977-6033 or nathaneyoung@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL ROBOT COMPETITION!!!!!!

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Youth—RoboRAVE—May 1 –3, 2014

Adults—Robot Academy—April 30—May 4, 2014

More information: www.gotoif.org

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**ALBUQUERQUE SISTER
CITIES FOUNDATION**

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

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE: Helmstedt visits ABQ;
Guadalajara and Chihuahua Trips; Turkmen Concert**

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