

# *Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation*

*Fall 2012*

2012 - 2013

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## ASCF Youth Visit Sasebo, Japan

A delegation of seven Albuquerque youth and three chaperones traveled to Sasebo, Japan July 19—31 to meet with their sister city counterparts. The trip was one of a continuing effort by Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation to encourage young people to understand different cultures through person to person contact.

Students and chaperones were home-hosted while in Sasebo and had a busy itinerary including personal exchanges, receptions with Sasebo officials, sightseeing and interacting with Sasebo students.

The group consisted of Richard Buckler, ASCF President; Denise Mullen, chaperone, Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman, Sasebo chair and students, Ryan Suazo, Joshua Toon, Kaitlin Dotson, Allison Merrell, Averill Nolte, Shellie Chacon and Renata Bonney.

Upon their return Richard and Mary Hope Buckler hosted a recep-

tion where Albuquerque Journal staff writer, Olivier Uyttebrouck was present. His article about the trip appeared in the Tuesday, August 28, 2012 issue.

ASCF President, Richard Buckler as a fearsome Japanese warrior



Visiting ASCF group with their hosts on the Albuquerque Bridge in Sasebo



Peace memorial in Nagasaki, Japan



Ryan Suazo, center, with host's sons

## From the President's Desk...

Running for the gold! No, I'm not talking about track events at the recent 2012 Summer Olympics in London. I'm talking about the privilege our Chihuahua Committee recently had to support five Tarahumara Indians from Copper Canyon in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico who were able to participate at the last minute in the Buffalo Thunder Resort and Casino September 15 half-marathon event in Santa Fe. Two of the Indians ran in the event wearing their traditional native costumes and sandals with soles made from pieces of tires. Usually, the Tarahumara runners rack up 200 miles in two days. So 13 miles, well they were just getting warmed up. So although they didn't win the race, ultimately, we were the ones that had our hearts warmed by their charm and grace, leaving us wishing soon for their return, or an opportunity to visit them.

Speaking of Mexico, did you know that New Mexico businesses did well over \$400 million in exports last year to Mexico? And, closing in on first place this year are our exports to Israel. For Mayor Berry and the City of Albuquerque, your sister cities organization helps open up the doors in both of these countries for not only cultural ex-

changes to occur, but also the critical economic development that can help all of us to prosper in a tough world economy. Mayor Berry plans a sister cities trade mission to each of these countries (Mexico - later this month, Israel—next April.)

What other bridge-building has happened over the summer and early fall besides helping with the Tarahumara Indian visit? Here are just some of the events:

Seven Albuquerque youth visited Sasebo, Nagasaki and Tokyo, Japan, enjoying home-stays with their counterparts. Students learned that Sasebo is one of Japan's most important port cities, where a U.S. Naval base has been established for decades. The Mayor of Sasebo along with the City Council President and Sasebo officers plans to visit Hawaii and San Diego ports in early November with a stop in Albuquerque to see Mayor Berry.

Chihuahua high school marching band visited the University of New Mexico, performing there and at Washington Middle School. While in Spain on a personal trip, Eva Gonzales, our Albuquerque, Spain Chair paid a visit to Albuquerque in order to express all of our support for a quick recovery to their economic malaise.

Nine German youth visited here with three chaperones (one was the Helmstedt

Deputy Mayor). These students stayed with our students who visited there last year.

Our Helmstedt Chair, Nathan Young, led a group of ASCF members to Germany last month. Next year we will celebrate 30 years of sister city relationship with Helmstedt. A large group from Helmstedt, including their current mayor, is expected to visit during our October 2013 Balloon Fiesta.

Two Turkmen librarians participated in an intense two week New Mexico library-sharing experience. Although many of the above activities involved schedules designed by the city and other government agencies that limited our participation, we want to invite you to several upcoming events where we can share these successes. See our calendar schedule in this newsletter to learn about events in December, January, and March and plan to attend. You are also invited to visit Turkmenistan this coming March, or Israel this coming April, as part of two membership trips in the first half of next year.

Stayed tuned! Thank you for your support.

*Richard*

Richard Buckler

## ASCF Students Talk to ASCF Board

At the September ASCF Board Meeting, students that traveled to Sasebo, Japan told about their trip. Averill Nolte, Kaitlin Dotson, Shellie Chacon, Renata Bonney, Ryan Suazo, Allison Merrell and Josh Toon each presented their storyboard with photos and spoke of their experience. Sasebo Committee Chair, Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman presented each

student with their porcelain plates and cups as well as the painted spinning tops (Sasebo's famous craft) that they made while they were in Sasebo.

Afterwards light refreshments were enjoyed by all—ASCF board members, students, parents and guests. It was then that lively conversation took place about the students impression of Japan.



L to R: Shellie's sister, Allison, Averill, Renata, Ryan and Kazumi

# Helmstedt Youth Visit Albuquerque

From July 24 to August 11, nine youth and 3 adults from Helmstedt, Germany visited the USA southwest. Albuquerque was their home base. On July 25, the Honorary German Consul in New Mexico, Stephen Helgesen hosted a reception welcoming the guests. That week they had a very busy schedule which included meeting with Mayor Berry, touring the Natural History Museum, Biopark and Nuclear Museum. There was a day trip to Santa Fe via the train and a visit to the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center and Albuquerque Little Theater. The group then went to the Grand Canyon for 5 days. More exciting events followed—the Balloon Museum, Isotopes ball game—and the

group was on the road again to see Carlsbad Caverns and White Sands. Before departing there were some more days in the area - time for a trip to Jemez and Los Alamos and a tour of the Bradley Science Museum. The last day was set aside for relaxation and shopping with a potluck farewell reception at the Baker's residence. Here they celebrated Felix Burgdorf's birthday with a pinata.

A huge thank you to the hosts of our guests—the Suazos, Londones, Bucklers, Campos, Szucs, Bakers, Solis and Ray Heidfeld. Also thank you Nathan Young, Chair and Ray Heidfeld, Co-chair of Helmstedt committee for making the many arrangements for a successful youth exchange.



Helmstedt youth celebrates his birthday with a pinata.



Stephen Helgesen, Honorary German Consul hosts a reception for visiting German youth.



Potluck Farewell reception at Baker's residence. Sampling the food are ASCF President, Richard Buckler; Sasebo co-chair, Pam Feather; Carl Londene and Denise Baker.



Enjoying Stephen Helgesen's welcome reception.



Making new friends are Beccy Spelly, Tatiana Solis and Gina Solis



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## ASCF Board Members Attend SCI International Conference in Jacksonville, FL

SCI held its annual international conference in Jacksonville, Florida from July 12 – 14. Those attendees, representing ASCF, were ASCF President Richard Buckler; 3rd Vice President and Past President, Dave Bagley; Albuquerque, Spain Chair, Eva Gonzales and Chihuahua, Mexico Chair, Alma Solis.

### Dave Bagley's Report:

Most of the sessions that I attended were focused on making it easier, cheaper and faster to communicate using available social media and other computer techniques.

There were three areas of interest that I wanted to see if we could improve—communication between our chairs and their counterparts; communication between students before, during and after a student exchange, including their parents and our members; and communication between our sister cities program and other programs around New Mexico, the country and the world.

A session on arts and culture had an amazing display of student artwork. Could ASCF do some student art exchanges and display the art?

Another session encouraged the use of existing social media, including Facebook and/or Twitter to improve information flow to members (especially younger members) and those outside your organization (i.e. news media.) The use of Skype was promoted to encourage easy and free communication both vocal and face to face.

Skype can be used to cut travel expenses, since it can be used during planning meetings. One to one calling is free, and three-way (or more) conferences are very inexpensive. This technology is easy-to-use and available on all PC's.

### Eva Gonzales' Report:

On July 12, we were welcomed by the current Chairman of the SCI Board of Directors, Brad Cole. CEO Mary D. Kane reported on changes and projects SCI is currently working on. For example, SCI has completely replaced its website with a new, friendlier version. ([www.sister-cities.org](http://www.sister-cities.org))

At the fundraising session, the presenter offered ideas for effective fundraising, emphasizing that we (Sister Cities) should guard against accepting funding from one source only—in our case, local government. Hence we need to expand our fundraising base to include individuals in our community. Developing interest about Sister Cities in our community is one way to reach that goal. One strategy suggested was to use social media to increase our area of influence.

In the recruit, train and retain volunteers session, rules were given for keeping volunteers loyal—planning a volunteer program, recruiting and placing volunteers, orientating and training volunteers and supervising and recognizing volunteers and evaluating volunteer programs.

The Jacksonville Mayor's reception presented an opportunity to meet Sister Cities folks and find new friends among them.

## ASCF UPCOMING TRIPS

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan: March 16 - 24, 2013 - expect airfare costs to be about \$2,000, but home-stays should be available. - for more Info contact Committee Chair Oguljan Young at [atamuradovna@yahoo.com](mailto:atamuradovna@yahoo.com) or 803-0247.

Rehovot, Israel: April 27 - May 4, 2013 - depending on hotel, estimated trip costs at this time about \$3,000 - for more information contact Committee Chair Janice Moranz at [janicemoranz@comcast.net](mailto:janicemoranz@comcast.net) or 417-3787.



Sunday, December 9, 2012      1 - 3 PM      Highlighting Albuquerque, Spain  
National Hispanic Cultural Center - 4th and Caesar Chavez

Cost: \$11 for ASCF members who submit reservations WITH payment BEFORE Nov. 15  
\$16 for ASCF Members who submit reservations WITH payment BETWEEN  
November 16 and December 1.  
\$ 22 for non-members and everybody AFTER December 1.

Cost covers full buffet and tour of Torreon Tower and Museum after lunch.

Submit this form and payment to Richard Buckler - 10100 Isla Place NE - Albuquerque, NM 87111

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER ATTENDING BRUNCH: ASCF MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_ NON MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation



Sunday, January 27, 2013      2 - 4 PM      FREE and open to everyone!

Jewish Community Center - 5520 Wyoming Blvd. NE

Come discover what our nine sister committees have planned

Enjoy tea and cookies - door prizes

More information, please contact Carol Dawley at [crdawley@juno.com](mailto:crdawley@juno.com) or 883-9516



Saturday, March 9, 2013      1 - 3 pm      FREE and open to everyone!

Manzano Mesa Multi-Generational Center—501 Elizabeth St. SE

Come hear folk tales from our sister cities and enjoy light refreshments.

Contact: Carol Dawley at [crdawley@juno.com](mailto:crdawley@juno.com) or 883-9516

## Reception for Zambian Delegation

On July 24, 2012, the New Mexico Office of African American Affairs hosted a reception welcoming the delegation from Zambia. It featured Zambian singer Maureen Lilanda. ASCF 1st Vice President, Bob Montoya and 2nd Vice President, Carol Dawley represented ASCF.

The group traveled 9,313 miles to sign a sister cities agreement between Kasama, Zambia and Clovis, NM. The visitors included Councillor Francis B. Kombe, Town Clerk, Ernest Sumani and Vice Chairman of their twinning committee, Andrew Chapuuma.

Mayor Berry was present to welcome the group.



L to R: Pastor Andrew Chipuma from Zambia; Maureen Lilanda; Yvette KaufmanBell, NM Office of African American Affairs; Mayor Berry and Barbara Lilanda, Maureen's manager.

L to R: front row—Patrick Mapalo- Local sister cities organizer and Vice Chair of Clovis, NM twinning committee; Kasama Town Clerk Sumani; Kesama Mayor /His Worship Kombe; ASCF 1st Vice President, Bob Montoya and ASCF 2nd Vice President, Carol Dawley. Back row - Gary Williams, Deputy Director OOAAA; Barbara Lilanda; Maureen Lilanda; Dr. Harold Bailey and Yvette Kaufman-Bell, Executive Director OOAAA (Office of African American Af-



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, November 15—ASCF Board Meeting - Sandia Labs Federal Credit Union - 3707 Juan Tabo Blvd. NE—5:45 PM—all welcome

Sunday, December 9 - ASCF Holiday Brunch - National Hispanic Cultural Center - 1-3 PM—\$11 for ASCF members with reservations BEFORE November 15. Otherwise, \$22. For more info, contact Richard Buckler at 291-8175.

Sunday, January 27, 2013—ASCF international tea and cookies—2-4 PM - Come meet our committee chairs and discover their many activities—Jewish Community Center - 5520 Wyoming Blvd. - FREE and open to the public.

Saturday, March 9, 2013—ASCF presents international folks tales -stories and light refreshments - Manzano Mesa Multi-Generational Center— 1 - 3 PM - Free and open to the public.

March 16 - 24, 2013—ASCF trip to Ashgabat, Turkmenistan—for more info, contact Committee Chair Oguljan Young at 803-0247 or atamuradovna@yahoo.com

April 27 - May 4, 2013—ASCF trip to Rehovot, Israel—for more information contact Committee Chair, Janice Moranz at 417-3787 or janicemoranz@comcast.net

Sunday, June 9, 2013 - ASCF Annual Meeting featuring our Mexican sister cities - location to be determined.

# ASCF Members Visit Sister City Helmstedt, Germany

On Friday, Sept. 14, 2012 ASCF members, Nathan Young, Ray Heidfeld, Hedy Harwell, Donna and Carl Londene, and Carol and Vic Dawley met in Berlin, Germany. Here they enjoyed two days of sightseeing. On their arrival in Helmstedt, Sunday evening, they were met by their hosts for the week and several sister city committee members. The next day, there was a private tour of the VW factory in the morning followed by a lunch in the plant's cafeteria, featuring its famous curry wurst. In the afternoon, they visited the Autostadt (auto museum). Here at the Porsche pavilion, they got to sit inside new Porsches—photos, yes; but alas, no keys!

Tuesday the group enjoyed a lovely lunch at the Rathskeller restaurant, followed by a meeting with the mayor of Helmstedt. (Note: a photo of this meeting made their local newspaper!) That afternoon, we toured Kloster Marienberg where altar cloths and priest robes are handmade and repairs are made to ancient needlecrafts.

Off to Dresden on Wednesday. The long train ride was worth it as Dresden is such a beautiful city. Among the highlights was the rebuilt cathedral, Frauenkirche und Neumarkt. Destroyed during WW II, it was completely rebuilt, actually using some of the building blocks of the original church. The Harz Mountain city of Goslar was Thursday's destination. Here we enjoyed walking about the ancient town with its decorated half-timbered houses. Lunch at a picturesque restaurant on the River Gose was followed by a mini train tour through the town. We heard the famous chimes of the Glockenspiel on the market square ringing with its wooden figures telling the history of mining in Goslar. We also got to see the Imperial Palace and the throne.

Friday was a free day with ASCF members "doing their own thing." That evening there was a farewell reception hosted by the Helmstedt sister city committee.

Saturday the group traveled to Mainz, touring that city in the afternoon. Sunday was a relaxing all-day Rhine River cruise. And Monday was departure day. Many thanks to Nathan Young for arranging such a fun-filled, informative trip.



In front of Helmstedt's Rathaus. L to R: front row -Ray Heidfeld, Hedy Harwell, Nathan Young, Helmstedt Mayor Wittich Schobert, Margrit Niemann, Donna Londene and Carol Dawley. Back row—Carl Londene, Rolf Rheineman, Karin Cyrol, Dr. Birker (former mayor and president of Helmstedt sister cities), and Mecki Jordan.



Farwell dinner: L to R: Dr. Joachim Scherrieble, Helmstedt's current sister cities president, Karin Cyrol, Nathan Young and Margrit Niemann.



Mecki Jordan and Vic Dawley toast to friendship



Nathan Young navigates the Berlin subway with the help of a Berlin bear.

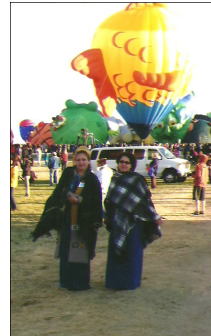


## Turkmen Librarians Visit Albuquerque

Librarians from the National Library of Turkmenistan visited Albuquerque in October. Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan is one of our sister cities. Alana McGrattan, Rio Rancho CNM Campus Reference Librarian and ASCF member helped to arrange the tours for the Turkmen guests—Tazegul Hannyeva and Bagdagul Samedova. They went to the New Mexico State Library, the Archives in Santa Fe, Santa Fe and Albuquerque public libraries, Laguna and Jemez Pueblos, Zimmerman Library at the University of New Mexico, Cleveland High School and Georgia O'Keefe Elementary libraries and the CNM Main Campus Library. Hannyeva and Samedova communicated with the assistance of interpreter Artem Artyushkov. Hannyeva said she was interested in learning about the e-library, electronic catalog, customer service, management of the library and how to scan books. Samedova said she was interested in learning more about the management of state, town and district level libraries and the methods of an information desk.



Above: Melissa Salazar showing original copy of NM constitution at State Archives.



Left: Tazegul and Bagdagul enjoy an outing to the Special Shapes rodeo at Balloon Fiesta Park.

## Chihuahua Marching Band and Tarahumara Runners visit Albuquerque

September 14 - 16, Chihuahua's High School Color Guard and Marching Band visited Albuquerque to help celebrate Mexico Independence Day. The group performed at the Washington Middle School and at the University of New Mexico where they were hosted for lunch and dinner. The 45 students and 5 chaperones traveled here by bus. ASCF treated them to lunch on Saturday. ASCF also hosted five Tarahumara members: two marathon runners and three artisans. The two runners competed in a half marathon, where they had the honor to meet the legendary gold medal Olympian Billy Mills. The three artisans displayed and sold their authentic handicrafts made with native materials such as wool, bark of pine trees, leather, mud and palm leaves.



Chihuahua High School Marching Band relaxing at lunch hosted by ASCF



Left: Tarahumara runner crosses the finish line  
Right: Alma Solis and Tarahumara with their handmade crafts.



**ALBUQUERQUE SISTER  
CITIES FOUNDATION**

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**Inside this issue: ASCF trips to Japan and Germany**

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|--|-----------|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Large Business (more than 15 employees) | \$300     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reciprocal non-profit organization      | N/C       |

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