

Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

Fall 2015

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Albuquerque Receives Helmstedt Visitors

A 14-member Delegation from Helmstedt lead by their new chair, Siegfried Dehning arrived in Albuquerque at the end of September. Ten members of the group first spent two weeks traveling the southwest in a van. Tuesday night, Sept 29, there was a welcome reception for the visitors at the Red Horse B & B. Talking with Marion Reinhold, Anna Christin, Christoph Linnemann and Uwe Neumann we were told of their last week's adventures. They thought the Grand Canyon was: "big," "huge," "wonderful," and "unbelievable." They also found Bryce Canyon beautiful. Although they did not see any large animals in the national parks, they did spot a good size king snake. In Durango they rode the steam train. They said that as they traveled through the area, they thought they were in Switzerland. They also visited the Painted Desert and the Petrified Forest.

The Londene family hosted the welcome reception. Papa Carl worked the barbecue while daughters Darlene and Denise served food. Denise's husband, Randy Baker poured his specialty beers—Inpia pale ale and a hardy stout. After eating, presentations were made. Siegfried presented Nathan Young, Albuquerque's Helmstedt Chair and Richard Buckler, ASCF President each with a book about Volkswagens. After this, an informal "jam session" happened with local residents joining in. What great music and what fun.

Five of the men are in the band "Back2Rock." This band performed three times—Thursday and Saturday nights at the Rio Bravo Brewery in NW Albuquerque and Friday night at the Kactus Brewery in Bernalillo. The band members are Uwe Neumann on drums; Christoph Linnemann on guitar and vocalist; Manne on guitar and vocalist; Klaus on bass and vocalist and Siegfried Dehning on the keyboard and saxophone and vocalist. While some of the members are retired (i.e. Klaus); others have full-time jobs: Uwe work with water management, Christoph is a banker. Siegfried is the band leader. He not only plays the keyboard and saxophone but also the accordion and organ. He has a Hammond organ in his house. He said that he performed his first professional gig 50 years ago.

A farewell dinner thanking the host families that opened up their homes during the week for the delegation was held at the home of Ray and Hedy Heidfeld. Alma Solis catered the affair—wonderful Mexican fare featuring yummy enchiladas. Nathan Young is planning a trip in June to Helmstedt when a festival will be occurring. Many thanks to those who hosted our special guests and chauffeured them around the area.



L. to R.: Gary Oppedahl(Economic Dev. Dir. City of ABQ), Ray Heidfeld(Co-Chair ABQ-Helmstedt), Siegfried Dehning (Helmstedt Chair), Nathan Young(Chair ABQ-Helmstedt), Richard Buckler(ASCF President).

From the President's Desk...

In this issue you will find stories and pictures about some of our recent exchanges that highlight how powerful Citizen Diplomacy can be—from our youth to a rock band from Germany playing some of the Oldies. One thing in common is Friendships, the cornerstone of all we do at Sister Cities.

At the same time another milestone was reached this year also—70 years marking the end of World War II. As another article in this issue will detail, Consul General of Japan, Makoto Ito, visited Albuquerque in September to honor the memory of that difficult period but also to express the continual optimism for the future, such as represented by the youth from our July youth exchange to Sasebo.

Chalk up another victory for world peace and the vision of world leaders such as President Eisenhower who in 1956 started the sister cities movement that promoted people to people diplomacy as a way to break down barriers that governments and politics often can't overcome.

Why has the vision worked? Listen to a few quotes from some of our youth who recently travelled to our sister city of Sasebo, Japan, located in the Nagasaki Prefecture.

"I made international friendships that will last a lifetime" – Katie Krizek.

"Forming friendships are among the most powerful of human connections and the goal of cultural exchange"—Stephen West.

"Seeing the Atom Bomb Museum in Nagasaki made me feel that I need to do all I can to make sure that that kind of thing never happens again"—Anna Suazo. Way to go, Youth! You get it, thank you for being a great example to all of us.

But the value of friendship was on "stage"—literally—with the recent visit to Albuquerque by seven couples from Helmstedt who just happened to be part of the Back2Rock band. They certainly played their way into our hearts, and I hope you had a chance to get out and see them at either the Rio Bravo Brewery or Kactus Brewery. Special thanks to all who helped: from the organizers (Nathan and Ray) to the home hosts who gave our guests more than just a place to sleep; from the various venues (Red Horse Vineyard B&B, Rio Bravo Brewery and Kactus Brewery) to those who drove; from those who arranged for special events, such as the International Balloon Fiesta giving us several VIP fiesta tickets, to those who donated the beer (thank you Rio Bravo). Friendships have made possible what was thought impossible 70 years ago.

And, thank you members for your part in continuing the pursuit of the Vision. As a city, we can be proud of the success represented by ten sister cities, a wonderful and diverse balance.

But it's our lifetime friendships across the world that prove it.

Richard



Farewell party for our youth ambassadors in Sasebo as they get ready to return to Albuquerque.

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Albuquerque Youth Delegation Trip to Japan—July 2015

By Denise Mullen

During the past twelve years there have been seven Sister City sponsored youth exchanges between Albuquerque and Sasebo, Japan. Over 75 students have participated. Eight students represented Albuquerque Sister Cities in the exchange that took place July 14-26, 2015. Trip coordinators were Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman, ASCF Sasebo Committee Chairperson, Denise Mullen, Sasebo Committee Youth Coordinator and Steven Mullen, male chaperone. Ken Oyama, Sasebo Municipal Office International Policy Division, and Takako Ishibashi and Hiroko Iizuka, Sasebo Sister Cities Association, were the primary coordinators in Sasebo.

The Japan adventure began with a visit to Tokyo. The group spent a busy two and a half days exploring the city via public transportation. Tokyo guides were Michiyo Kawaike and Yoko Iwaki, long-time friends of Denise Mullen. The itinerary included visits to the Edo-Tokyo Museum, Kokugi-kan (sumo wrestling stadium), Tokyo SkyTree (rated the favorite activity by the youth), and a food replica workshop at the Ganzo Shokuhin Sample-ya. At the Ikebukuro Life Safety Learning Center, the group learned about earthquakes and earthquake safety. The group took a leisure stroll through the serene wooded grounds of the Meiji Shrine. Of course, there was time for shopping in Akihabara (electronics district) as well as Harajuku (center of Japanese youth culture and fashion) and Omotesando (home to international brand boutiques, Kiddyland and Oriental Bazaar).

Reaching Sasebo by Shinkansen and JR Railways, the group was met with an enthusiastic welcome by the members of the Sasebo Sister Cities and host families. After spending the first weekend with host families, the youth delegates and their host brothers/sisters began a busy week of scheduled activities. Events included interactive activities such as learning songs, playing the “Statues Game”, making hand-rolled sushi, flower arranging, calligraphy, dressing in kimonos and attending a tea ceremony at Seiwa High School. And, that was only the first day! A tour of Sasebo Heavy Industries (shipbuilding), exploring one of the 99 islands, sea kayaking, painting a traditional komo at the Sasebo Top Factory, learning zazen meditation from a Buddhist master at the Seigan-ji Temple, and enjoying the attractions at the Dutch-style theme park, Huis Ten Bosch, kept everyone excited. The group paid their respects at the Nagasaki Peace Park and Atomic Bomb Museum and took in more history at the reconstructed Dutch trading post of Dejima.

The Japan-America Society of Sasebo sponsored an overnight excursion to Unzen hot springs. After a traditional Japanese dinner at the mountain onsen resort, students enjoyed an evening of karaoke. They had an opportunity to try out the hot springs with their new Japanese friends. The next day, the group traveled by bus and ferry to Kumamoto. A guided tour of the impressive 17th century Kumamoto Castle was the highlight of the day. An afternoon visit to Mt. Aso, Japan’s largest active volcano, completed the outing. (Continued on Page 4)



Left: Students paint a traditional koma known as the Sasebo top.

Right: Students made their own lunch—Teddy Bear Sushi Rolls.



Left: 17th century Kamamoto Castle

Right: Hot-springs at Unzen.



Early in the week, the youth ambassadors met with Mayor Norio Tomonaga. Each student introduced him or herself to the Sasebo mayor in Japanese. The mayor was presented with gifts from Albuquerque including the newly designed Sister Cities t-shirt “celebrating 50 years of friendship 1966-2016” between the two cities. The youth delegates also paid a courtesy visit to Osamu Obata, president of the Japan-America Society of Sasebo.

An official welcome dinner was hosted by the Sasebo Sister Cities Association with speeches by Mayor Tomonaga and Dr. Tan Tominaga, Sasebo Sister Cities president. Special guest was Manji Inoue, a National Living Treasure of Japan, who has been to Albuquerque numerous times as a visiting artist at UNM. Traditional dance performances including sword dancing began the evening’s entertainment. Albuquerque students performed the “Algorithm March”. Both American and Japanese students sang together, “Sakura, Sakura” and “Feel, Breeze, Sasebo” then were joined in singing by all those in attendance.

A lively farewell party was held at the Yumihari-No-Oka Hotel on the top of Mt. Yumihari overlooking Sasebo. A typhoon was passing through at the time but that didn’t dampen the festivities. Robbie Shafer and Naoki Nakao served together as master of ceremonies. Individual American and Japanese students showcased their musical talents. Favorite Sasebo memories of the homestay were fondly recapped by each Albuquerque student. A good time was had by all. Many tears were shed as goodbyes were said at the Sasebo Station the following day. But these were not final goodbyes, just “mata oaishima-sho” -- “will see you again”.



Top, L to R: Nobuhiko Yamakawa of the Japan-America Society of Sasebo, Ken Oyama. Bottom: Denise Mullen and Steven Mullen.

“Oh, Sasebo! I got a peace and I feel the breeze of the sea...I took a trip and I feel the wind softly...Blowin’ in the wind. So you better go to Sasebo. Yes, we better go to Sasebo. Love of a warm-hearted people. Go to Sasebo. And you will be wrapped in gentleness...If you take a trip to Sasebo, you will feel at home...You can feel at home in Sasebo. In Sasebo!” partial lyrics from :

Feel, Breeze, Sasebo by Masahi Yoshida 2010

Japan Presents Cherry Tree to Albuquerque

September 2, 2015 marked the 70th anniversary of the formal surrender of Japan. Japanese representatives signed the official Instrument of Surrender on the deck of the U.S.S. Missouri in Tokyo Bay in 1945. To Commemorate the day and to celebrate the peaceful cooperation of our nations, the Japanese Ministry donated a cherry tree to the Veteran's Memorial Park in Albuquerque.

The tree planting event took place at 11 AM on September 19th. Albuquerque's forester, Joran Viers was there to supervise the planting. Speakers at the ceremony included Roger Newall of Constituent Services for Veterans Affairs, representing Albuquerque Mayor Berry; Jack Foxx, Secretary of Veterans' Services for the State of New Mexico, representing Governor Susana Martinez and Makoto Ito, Consul-General of Japan. Other consuls present were Davis Begay, Honorary Consul General of Japan at Albuquerque and Akihiro Izumi, Consul of Japan in Denver.

Standing in the background during the ceremony were 10 servicemen under Major Jason Elrock and Lt. Catsis. These Navy servicemen and women had served overseas at the US base in Sasebo, Japan. With them were the youth of Albuquerque Sister Cities who had traveled to Sasebo this past July.

The children present were each asked to add a shovelful of dirt to help root the tree. They represent the hope for peace in the future.

In front of the tree there is a plaque that reads, "In Commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, the Government and people of Japan present this cherry tree as a symbol honoring the friendship between the people of Japan and the State of New Mexico." The cherry blossom is the national flower of Japan and a symbol of hope.

At the close of the ceremony, there was a delightful reception inside the Veteran's War Memorial building.



On left: Albuquerque's forester Joran Viers supervisors Cherry Tree planting along with ASCF youth and Navy service personnel.



L. to R.: Consul General of Japan, Makoto Ito; Roger Newall (City of ABQ Constituent Services for Veteran Affairs); Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman (Sasebo Chair).



Governor of Taitung County, Taiwan Visits Albuquerque Balloon Festival

Left: Dr. Yu-lin Shen, along with Justin Huang, the Governor of Taitung County, take off in one of three Taiwan balloons participating in the 2015 Albuquerque Balloon Festival. Two years ago Taitung County received 12 Albuquerque balloonists as part of their annual festival. Bernalillo and Taitung County are interested in becoming “Sister Counties” in the near future because of several mutual interests, including hot air-ballooning.

Lanzhou Students Participate in Albuquerque Competition

The 2015 Botball International/The Global Conference on Educational Robotics held a competition in Albuquerque July 7-11. Our sister city sent one team—Lanzhou No. 63 Middle School Team joining the Chinese delegation. Dr. Lin Ye, Lanzhou chair, met with the team and facilitated their needs.

Fred Mondragon Joins ASCF Board as Chair of Alburquerque, Spain

Fred E. Mondragon has over forty years experience in the public and private sectors. He has been the administrator of the University of New Mexico Hospital, Regional Administrator of the Presbyterian hospital system in NM, and the Deputy Chief Administrative officer for the City of Albuquerque. He has also worked in the consulting and information technology field for two national system integration companies, TRW and Northrup Grumman. Mr. Mondragon was Director of Economic Development for the City of Albuquerque, and served as cabinet secretary for Economic Development under Governor Bill Richardson.

Mr. Mondragon served in the NM Legislature for three terms as a member of the House Appropriations and Finance Committee and Chairman of the Higher Education Subcommittee. He also has been the Science Advisor to the Governor's Science and Technology Commission, which established the Centers of technical Excellence and Commercialization at new Mexico's three Research Universities. He is also past president of ASCF.

Currently Fred serves as Honorary Consul for Spain, teaches Entrepreneurship at the UNM Anderson School and serves on several non-profit boards. He is founder and owner of Mondragon International, an international business development enterprise. He received his BS from UNM and his MBA from the George Washington University.

Welcome Fred to the ASCF board.

ASCF HOLIDAY PARTY

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Sunday, December 13, 2015 1—3 PM

Red Horse B& B—2155 Londene Lane, SW Albuquerque

Buffet Lunch—ASCF member fellowship

\$5.00 per person—pay at door—cash or check

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED—Carol Dawley at crdawley@juno.com or 883-9516

ASCF INTERNATIONAL TEA

Saturday, January 16, 2016—12:30—2:30 PM

Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center—501 Elizabeth, SE Albuquerque

Come enjoy cookies and drinks and learn about our 10 sister cities

FREE and OPEN to the Public

ASCF Member Trip to Guadalajara, Mexico February 13 –21, 2016

Length—9 days and 8 night: 6 days and nights in Guadalajara and 3 days and 2 nights in Puerto Vallarta

Guadalajara—guided walking tour; Tlaquepaque (artist, handicrafts, mariachis and tequila); Guachimontones ruins, a UNESCO World heritage site; Tequila (tour a small family owned traditional factory); and Lake Chapala, Mexico's largest freshwater lake.

Puerto Vallarta—relax and enjoy the warm, sunny beach

Approximate cost: \$2,500 individual and \$4200 per couple—includes airfare, local transportation, hotel, entries to museums.—excludes meals, drinks and transportation not part of the program.

If interested, please contact Guadalajara Chair, Dr.. Jose Luis Cruz-Campa at joecampa@yahoo.com or (915) 760-3291 for details and options.

Please confirm your participation by January 10, 2016.

Full itinerary and pictures on ASCF website on the Guadalajara page.

Notice of Membership Dues increase... Remember when postage used to be \$.32 for a First class stamp? For the first time in almost two decades, the ASCF board has opted for a slight increase in Membership rates **starting January 1, 2016**. Typically, the Membership period for ASCF follows the fiscal year used by the City of Albuquerque (July—June), so only upon renewal will the increase apply.

Youth dues will now be set at \$10 /year; Individual Adult/Families at \$30/\$40 respectively. Individual Seniors (65 and up)/and Senior couples at \$15/\$20, respectively.

**ALBUQUERQUE SISTER
CITIES FOUNDATION, INC.**

PO Box 26533

Albuquerque, NM 87125-6533

**Upcoming Events: ASCF Member Holiday Party Dec 13—Int'l Tea Jan 16, 2016
—ASCF Member Trip to Guadalajara Feb 13-21, 2016 See page 7 for details.**

PO Box 26533
Albuquerque, NM 87125-6533



THE ALBUQUERQUE
**sister
cities**
FOUNDATION, INC.

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult—Single/Family | \$30/\$40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior—Single/Family | \$15/\$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (13—20) | \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small Business (15 or fewer employees) | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large Business (more than 15) | \$300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved reciprocal non-profit organization | N/C |

Membership Application

☐ New ☐ Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Website: WWW.ALBUQUERQUE-SISTER-CITIES.ORG