

ALBUQUERQUE SISTER CITIES

September 2005

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A n n u a l M e e t i n g

On Sunday June 26, 2005 over 125 Albuquerque Sister Cities members and guests gathered for the annual meeting. The festive occasion began with a sumptuous luncheon prepared by the Chihuahua sister city committee. Enter-

"The festive occasion began with a sumptuous luncheon ..."

tainment followed. First some colorfully clad youth from the Eugene Fields Elementary School Ballet Folklórico performed several traditional dances from the

Chihuahua area. Los Dorados de Villa mariachi band came next. These coed teens were multi-talented - not only playing their instruments but singing solos as well. Dave Bagley presented certificates of recognition to several long-standing members; thanking them for their efforts in helping Albuquerque Sister Cities grow and flourish. Each chair of the eight sister cities gave a brief report on past and upcoming events. The afternoon concluded with the drawing of names for the several door prizes. It was a wonderful opportunity to socialize - make new friends and renew old acquaintances.



L to R: D. Bagley, D. Hsi, M. Dike, B. Hartman, D. Londene, R. Hashimoto, M. Michnovicz



Eugene Fields Elementary School Ballet Folklórico

H o n o r e e s a t t h e A n n u a l M e e t i n g

President Dave Bagley presented Certificates of Recognition to Albuquerque Sister Cities past presidents. The recipients included: Ruth Hashimoto, Alan Cumm, Mike Cusack, Rod Stewart, Donna Londene, Margaret Dike, Louis Franco, Fred Mondragon, David Hsi, Mike

Michnovicz, and Betty Mae Hartman. Certificates of Appreciation were also presented to Harry E. Kinney, past mayor of Albuquerque; Lanny Messersmith, Honorary German Consul; Jerry Giese, Chair of Albuquerque's Tricentennial; and Jaun Manuel Solana, Honorary Mexican Con-

sulate. All received a hearty round of applause and the many thanks of Albuquerque Sister Cities members. A special thank you goes to Wolfram Krank for his fine calligraphy on the certificates.

Remember the past, catch the present, believe in the future.

F r o m T h e P r e s i d e n t ' s D e s k

First, let me welcome Carol Dawley. Carol and husband Vic moved here from Illinois in June. Carol called me before she moved, wanting to become a member. Once here, she volunteered to be our newsletter editor and I hired her on the spot. Since then, she's been busy writing, talking with our members, and putting together this edition. We can look forward to seeing more from her.

This year, SCIH held its annual conference in Spokane, WA, July 27-30. Six of us from Albuquerque attended. These conferences are a great way to learn from others. We brought back with us many new ideas. Our Annual Meeting was held June 26 at the Vineyard, and we had an overwhelming response! Alma Solis and her Chihuahua committee put together a meal typical of what you would find in Chihuahua. She

also brought in a mariachi band and dancers. We all had a great time listening and watching these energetic young performers. We also recognized some leaders in our community for their outstanding continued contributions to Sister Cities over the years.

In July, 11 students arrived from Sasebo, Japan. These kids really know how to have fun! At their final reception at Los Amigos Roundup, the students announced that they thought they needed to stay a little longer, like maybe through Sept. or Oct. Many thanks to Kazumi Kawakubo and her committee for arranging an itinerary that our hosts and the Sasebo youth will always remember.

We now have some dates for our participation in the Tricentennial celebration: June 30 through July 4, 2006. All 8 of our sister cities are invited to attend

during this week. There'll be lots of activities to enjoy - i.e. an air show at Kirtland Air Force Base, a balloon lift-off and glow at Balloon Fiesta Park surrounded by celebrations that include music, fireworks, children's activities, birthday cake, and a tour of the new Albuquerque Balloon Museum. What a wonderful opportunity to get together and see what we can all do to improve world peace. I know that the committee chairs will have their hands full planning and organizing for their delegates. They'll all need assistance. Here's a chance to get involved in a memorable, fun, week-long celebration. It's going to be a busy year ahead, but one of fun and friendship. Come join us.

M e e t Y o u r B o a r d : R u t h a n d E l e n a

SCIH onorary Board has 2 members from Albuquerque - Ruth Hashimoto and Elena Lu.

When Ruth was born in Seattle, WA, her parents named her "Satoye." This means blessing or gift from Seattle. During WWII, Ruth taught Japanese to the USGI officers in Ann Arbor, MI. The people who she lived with eventu-

ally moved to Albuquerque. They asked Ruth to join them and the rest is history. Ruth was an admirer of Eleanor Roosevelt - whom she met at the United Nations. Being influenced by Eleanor, Ruth felt that if Eleanor could accomplish what she did at her age, Ruth had a lot to do. (Eleanor was 20 years older.)



Ruth Hashimoto and Elena Lu

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UPCOMING
EVENTS

September

7-15 Chihuahua trip
to Copper Canyon
21 A SCF Board
Meeting 5:30 pm at
Bdwy & Lomas, 5th
floor. All welcome

October

16-29 Helmstedt
delegation to visit
Albuquerque
19-24 Guadalupe
trip

November

16 A SCF Board
Meeting, 5:30 pm at
Bdwy & Lomas, 5th
floor. All welcome

Still need a new
membership direc-
tory? Please email
Richard Buckler at
rbuckler3@comcast.net
or call him at 259-7392
to request your copy.

Friendship is the only
cement that will ever
hold the world to-
gether.

Albuquerque's Tricentennial

Mark your calendars
NOW. This is a BIG
event. Albuquerque Sis-
ter Cities Foundation and
the City of Albuquerque
will be welcoming delega-
tions from each of Albu-
querque's eight sister
cities over July 4, 2006.
This is in honor of Albu-
querque's 300th celebra-
tion. Although April is
when Founder's Day oc-
curs, July 4th is specifi-
cally being set aside for
Sister City recognition.
Sasebo, Japan has already
committed to sending
sixty Sasebo residents for
the occasion.

The tentative itinerary is
for five days - June 30 -
July 4. Emphasis will be
on the last three days for
"official events" since not
all delegates will be able
to stay for the entire five
days.

June 30 & July 1 - Gen-
eral events, shopping, lo-
cal sightseeing
July 2 - Official recep-
tions for all delegates,

including mayors and
their staff

July 3 - Dedication of
Sasebo Garden at the
Botanical Gardens

July 4 - Independence
Day celebration events

July 4th activities being
planned are: an open
house at Kirkland Air
Force Base with an air
show including Thunder-
birds, a musical presenta-
tion, tours and more.

(This is based on having
access to KAFB. If
there's a security alert,
we'll have an alternative.)
Also, there will be a bal-
loon lift off and balloon
glow at Balloon Fiesta
park surrounded by cele-
brations that include mu-
sic, fireworks, children's
activities, birthday cake,
and a tour of the new Al-
buquerque Balloon
Museum. We will intro-
duce the Sister Cities rep-
resentatives at this event.
Other activities include
tours of the Indian Pueblo
Cultural Center with Na-

tive American dancers
and events; a tour of
downtown to view the
various Tricentennial fes-
tival and cultural activi-
ties; and a tour of Civic
Plaza, the Albuquerque
Museum and the Museum
of Natural History.
Dave Bagley has asked all
Albuquerque Sister Cities
members to assist in locat-
ing host families for our
many expected guests.
Also - much assistance
will be needed to plan and
execute the events. Con-
tact a sister city chair or a
board member and get
involved!



Sasebo Welcome Dinner
All singing

Ruth & Elena Cont:

Ruth strongly believes in
world peace through un-
derstanding. She urged
the twinning of Albu-
querque and Sasebo - the
first of 8 sister city
matches. Ruth loves to
travel. She's been to
Japan, New Zealand, Aus-
tralia, India, Hong Kong,
Macao, Europe,
Mexico, Central and
South America. She has
friends in South Africa

who keep issuing an invi-
tation to visit but Ruth
has not traveled to Africa
yet. With 50 years of
sister city behind her, Ruth
is not done.

Elena Lu is very active in
Sino/USA activities. In
1995 while attending a
Sino/US conference in
China, she was able to
match Albuquerque with
Lanzhou, China. Both
cities being mountainous
are located at high eleva-
tions. In fact, both even

have coyotes! Since 1996,
Elena has returned to
Lanzhou with Albu-
querque sister city delega-
tions. Currently she is co-
chair of the Lanzhou sister
city committee.

SCI Honorary Board of Directors
(Dr. Roger Randle & Elena Lu) &
Chinese delegates at Sino/US Con-
ference.



SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE - 2005 - SPOKANE, W A

By Dave Bagley

This year, SCI held the annual Conference (July 27 -30) in Spokane, Washington, a small city located near the Idaho border. Albuquerque sent Richard Buckler, Kay Carrico, Margaret Dike, Wolfram Krank, Elena Lu and myself. We were greeted in the airport by local volunteers dressed in bright green shirts, who provided directions and help to our hotel shuttle. We stayed at the Doubletree Hotel, located on the Spokane River, in the downtown area. Wednesday afternoon we watched the opening Celebration and Parade of Nations, held a short walk from the hotel on the riverfront. The highlight was a Taiko Drummer group from Spokane, which provided music from their Sister City of Nishinomiya, Japan, followed by a nice salmon bake.

Early Thursday morning we heard presentations by candidates who were running for open SCIBoard positions. We then divided up for the many workshop sessions, which ran throughout the day. That evening, we boarded busses and were taken to ArborCrest Winery for a superb reception. The winery overlooks the city and we were treated to a jazz trio, great food and, of course, good wine.

Friday, Margaret organized an early breakfast meeting with Las Cruces, to discuss how to improve SC participation in New Mexico. Many of the SC groups in our state have lost their drive and Margaret is working as the State Coordinator to rekindle these organizations. Then we were off to another day of workshops and presentations. A welcome lunch break had Ambassador Tom Foley as the keynote speaker. He delivered a very motivating speech, citing recent world events (terrorism) as hampering our efforts to provide cultural exchanges around the world. How right he is!

Saturday, we participated in the less than exciting business meeting and voted to fill the open board positions. Voting was accomplished by paper ballots and it took 1 1/2 hours to count them. During this time, we heard about the 2006 SCI Conference, to be held in Washington DC, and the 50th anniversary of SCI. It promises to be a great celebration, if only they can figure out where to house all the delegates. That evening, we attended the closing gala and Lou Wozar Awards Ceremony, where recipients were announced for outstanding SC programs. They ranged from a program to destroy obsolete chemical weapons (Tooele City, UT) to a program to improve emergency and medical needs in Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo, Mexico (Palm Desert, CA).

All in all, it was a good conference. It gave us a chance to network with our counterparts from around the world. We found that foreign participation on the SCIBoard is still lacking. Much of the focus in workshops is how to encourage youth participation in SC programs, the same emphasis as we have in Albuquerque. During the next year we can use our knowledge to help some of our sister cities in need, improve commercial enterprise in others, and have a lifelong learning experience with people and cultures from around the world.

COMMENTS on the SCICONFERENCE

By Elena Lu

The Spokane Conference had some good points and some areas that could use a little improvement. The positive aspects included having a hotel shuttle bus take guests between the hotel and airport every 15 minutes. Spokane Sister Cities obviously focused much attention time to planning a great program and hospitality. They made sure to always have soft drinks, coffee, tea, fresh fruit, cookies, mixed nuts, etc. available at all times. They cleverly wore color coded shirts so conference attendees could clearly distinguish them and for help.

There were too many good workshops to choose from !!! I found some of the sessions I was interested in occurred at the same time and I had to make difficult decisions as to which to attend. Unfortunately workshop locations were not easy to locate. During the opening ceremonies and parade of nations, we were under the hot sun for a significant length of time, listening to speakers. Perhaps it would be better to either limit the number of speakers or the amount of time they are allotted to speak. It was great meeting with old friends and making new acquaintances. The SCI conference is always an uplifting experience.

By Wolfram Krank

I enjoyed the workshops, especially the one "Sister Cities International's 50th Anniversary celebration." My favorite activity was talking to people at the various worktables in the afternoons - i.e. the Spokane Sister City table and some and of their unique programs like the "Japanese Friendship Doll" and New Years Postcard contest. Also, the Fort Worth Sister City public relations tactics were very motivating. In some areas the conference was lacking in organization. The choice of vendor location which cluttered the workshop area was in poor taste. My favorite speaker, by far, was Tom Foley. He talked about the past 50 years of Sister Cities, the founding of it by Eisenhower and the strive it has made since then adding to better understanding around the world. It was a very positive speech with great hopes for the future.



Wolfram Krank and Dave Bagley enjoying a conversational moment at the SCI convention.

Elena Lu with plenary luncheon speaker Ambassador Tom Foley.



Second Sino/US Sister Cities Conference – Spokane 2005 – by Elena Lu

Having participated in the first Sino/US Sister Cities Conference that was held in Beijing, China in 1995, I was delighted to be involved in the Second Sino/US conference. This was held as part of the SCIC conference in Spokane, WA. Its goals were to stimulate ideas, provide useful information and foster the joys of friendship now and in the future.

The day long program was held in Spokane's historical Davenport Hotel on Thursday, July 28, 2005 from 7 am to 9 pm. The Chinese delegation consisted of 44 people from 11 different Chinese cities. Jilin, China is a sister to Spokane, WA.

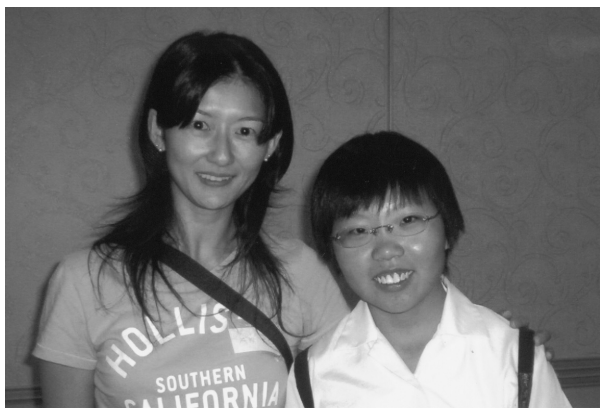
The session began with a networking breakfast at 7:30 am. While participants gathered and shared conversations, both American and Chinese cuisine was offered. Simultaneous interpretation in Mandarin and English were provided for all sessions except breakfast.

During the welcome session, there was an introduction of dignitaries: Dennis Hession, Spokane City Council President; Zheng Zeguang, Minister & Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the People's Republic of China; Laura Peterson, Vice President, International Relations, the Boeing Company; Sherman Banks, President of SCIC; Tim Honey, Executive Director of SCIC; Gordon McHenry, Director, Government and Community Relations, the Boeing Company; Dr. V. Lane Rawlins, President, Washington State University; Lou Qin, Secretary General, Chinese People's Association of Friendship; Cai Yuhé, Mayor of Jilin City; Dr. David Curd, President, College of Humanities & Science.

An open panel discussion followed. The topic was Economic Development through Sister Cities Partnerships. After lunch, three simultaneous breakout sessions were held – addressing environmental issues through sister city partnerships; improving intercultural communications; and a showcase of exchange programs.

From 6 to 9 pm, a gala closing banquet, sponsored by The Boeing Company, was held. Laura Peterson gave the keynote address. The Chinese American Society provided the entertainment – Chinese dancing and folk songs.

Much progress has been made since the First Sino/US conference. I feel this conference provided ideas to discuss and explore in order to enhance China and USA friendship.



Akiko and Kahorikitake



Elena Lu with Chinese delegates, Mayor Cai Yuhé of the city of Jilin and Mr. Luo Qin from Beijing. (R to L)



Baila! Baila! Dancers with lit candles.



Los Orados Mariachi Band

Eleven students and three adults from Sasebo, Japan arrived Sunday July 31. They each received home hospitality. The adults included another of one of the students and two city officials. Several of the students were from families who had hosted Albuquerque students two years ago. Kazumi Kawakubo helped to organize the activity-packed week. Kazumi was one of the first exchange high school students coming from Sasebo, Japan to Albuquerque. She like Albuquerque so much that she has settled here. It has always been her dream to take some students from Albuquerque to Sasebo. And, two years ago she did just that.

Monday, August 1, the group met with Mayor Martin Chavez. In his office they saw the "missing R" (A cork letter given to Albuquerque by the mayor of Alburquerque, Spain.) They visited Old Town and enjoyed Explora Science Center. That evening there was a welcome dinner. Petroglyph National Monument was the day activity for Tuesday. At night, they all enjoyed an Isotope game.

On Wednesday, they toured James Monroe Middle School. There they participated in a Native American sand painting art project. The Rio Grande Zoo was Thursday morning's outing. Time for ice cream at the Texas Land & Cattle Steakhouse and then off for a tram ride up Sandia Peak.

The National Hispanic Cultural Center and a tour of Eclipse Aviation was Friday afternoon's activities.

Saturday - rise and shine EARLY! A hot air balloon ride!! Their own mini balloon fiesta. Next came something more down to earth - the Rio Grande Botanical Garden and Albuquerque Aquarium. At the Botanical Garden, they saw the future site of the Sasebo Japanese garden. That evening was the farewell barbecue dinner at Los Amigos Roundup.

Many thanks to the Sasebo committee (Kazumi Kawakubo, chair and Pam Feather co-chair) for making this visit successful.

The Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation hosted a welcoming reception and dinner for the eleven students and three adults from Sasebo, Japan on August 1, 2005 at the Albuquerque Marriott. Some of the students wore school uniforms and others came in traditional garb. Each host family had their own table. Seated with them were family, Japanese guest and other members of the Albuquerque Sister Cities. It was a full room. Los Dorados de Villa Mariachi provided the lively entertainment. President Dave Bagley welcomed all and gave a background on the Sasebo/Albuquerque relationship. Ruth Hashimoto was recognized for her premier role in the foundation of this twinning. Kazumi Kawakubo, Sasebo Committee Chair, introduced the visiting delegation and translated as Naomi Takeguchi gave a short speech of thanks. She also introduced her hard-working committee and her co-chair, Pamela Feather. Dave Bagley had surprise gifts for the youth - a hat with the Albuquerque Sister Cities logo - each youth and their youth host received one. The evening closed with all singing "My Grandfather's Clock" in both English and Japanese.

Farewell Dinner

All good things must come to an end.

And so, a final gathering of the delegation from Sasebo and the Albuquerque Sister Cities was held on Saturday, August 6 at Los Amigos Roundup. The western setting was perfect for the barbecue meal.

One of the first arrivals was Ruth Hashimoto. She had brought with her several origami cranes which she had made. As she presented them to attendees, she explained that the crane, a symbol of peace, also brings good luck. The clanging of a triangle announced that chow was ready to be served. As the group filed through the line, blue tin plate in hand, they received beans, potato salad, sausage, chicken & beef. beef. Green chili soup was also available. Decadent chocolate brownies were de-

Entertainment followed the meal - Baila! Baila! dancers performed. All marvelled not only at their gorgeous costumes (which they changed for every dance) but the fancy footwork!! In one dance the women had lit candles on their head!

Kazumi Kawakubo asked the students to explain their sand paintings. Pam Feather presented certificates of appreciation to Denise and Kathleen for arranging transportation for the past week and to Kunikar Salazar. The host families presented floral bouquets to Kazumi Kawakubo, Pam Feather, and . Natsuko Satoyama, a Sasebo youth, gave a karate demonstration. Two other Sasebo girls performed a dance. Then the Japanese students did the Yosakoi folk dance, with a modern twist. Naomi Takeguchi, city official from Sasebo, gave thanks from the whole delegation. She said they felt a lot of love and kindness being expressed. The students now consider Albuquerque their second home and don't want to leave. She has such great memories of the past week and will tell the Mayor of Sasebo all about the delegation's wonderful week in Albuquerque. The evening formally closed with the Sasebo delegation doing a traditional folk dance (which involved fans). They then left the stage area and had the Albuquerque attendees join in for a long dance around the room. As folks departed, photos were still being taken and tears being shed as now new close friends must part.



Sasebo & Albuquerque Youth Sand Paintings

While the Sasebo delegation was in Albuquerque, the students from both cities made four sand paintings. They were commissioned to create a sand painting reflecting how Sasebo and Albuquerque came together. At the farewell dinner, the four paintings were displayed and each group explained the symbolism in their picture. One picture had 3 hot air balloons. One balloon had the flag of Sasebo on it. Another had the flag of New Mexico. The third had a merger of the USA and Japanese flags. Another painting focused on the names of the student artists. Using symbols for the names, there was the sun, the flowing rays of the sun, the harvest, the amber waves of grain, the clay mountains/mesas and the water. Another painting showed two hot air balloons displaying the flags of New Mexico and Japan—all soaring above 99 islands. The final painting combined the flags of New Mexico and Japan on one huge hot air balloon. In the corner were the words Albuquerque (written in English) and Sasebo (written in Japanese.) On July 4, 2006 these sand paintings will be presented to the mayors of Sasebo and Albuquerque at Albuquerque's 300th celebration. Each mayor will receive two of the paintings.

Thank You Host Families

A big thank you to the host families. Those hosting the Sasebo youth were: Chris & Karen Lawson & daughter Michelle; Paul & Denise Terrazas & daughter Amber; Russ & Kelly Gollen & daughter Carrie; Chantal & Dar Scott & daughter Ondin; Matias & Christina Del Toro & son Raymond; Mark & Cathy Dupuy & sons Nick and Ryan; Chris & Cathleen Valencia & daughter Desiree; Norman & Laurie Schwars, son Clayton & daughter Christina; Gilbert & Liz Silva & son Jeremiah; Brad & Jennifer Hartman & daughter Amanda & the Sticyr family & son Jeremy. Pam & John Feather hosted Naoko Doi, a chaparone. Michael & Jeremiah Sare hosted the city officials.



Albuquerque Through The Eyes of a Sasebo Youth

Kaho Rikitake looked ever so sharp in her school uniform at the welcoming dinner. She proudly sat at the table with her host family (Norman and Laurie Schwars and their children Clayton and Christina), other members of the Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation and Aiko, a translator. Although she did not understand English, she smiled a lot, being really happy to be where she was. Kaho, 14 years old (soon to be 15 in mid-August), said she missed her mother but not her little brother. When asked how the two sister cities (Albuquerque and Sasebo) were different, she said it was HOT here.

At the farewell dinner, again with Aiko as translator, Kaho gave her impressions of her busy week. She said she was having such a good time that she really didn't want to leave. Her favorite activity was the hot air balloon ride. Yes, she had champagne after her bumpy landing—but it was poured over her head! She bought souvenirs—a T-shirt with a balloon on it, chocolate, a dream catcher, postcards and a wind ornament. Her favorite food of the week was spaghetti. Still smiling, more broadly if possible, Kaho was thoroughly enjoying herself. However a touch of sadness was noted as she talked about going home. But then again Albuquerque is truly the land of enchantment.

Kenji's Impressions

Kenji Nakayama is an officer of Cultural Interchange Division in Sasebo. He was one of the three adults in the Sasebo delegation to visit Albuquerque. This was his second trip to the United States. About ten years ago, he visited New York City. He found New York and Albuquerque as different as Tokyo and Sasebo. Where New York had tall buildings, with its scenery going up and; Albuquerque was expansive. He really liked the tram ride up Sandia Peak and the hot air balloon ride. The wide open spaces were most appealing.

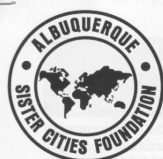
The New Mexico scenery awed him—the volcanos, the sunsets, the broad horizon. When asked what he thought of our weather, he replied that it was milder than he expected. His favorite food here was steak—meat and beef just seem to go together! He had a wonderful week in Albuquerque and his enthusiasm showed as he participated in the final folk dance.



Kenji Nakayama enjoying the farewell dinner.

HELMSTEDT, Germany

The Albuquerque/Helmstedt committee is gearing up for a 7 member delegation who will be visiting Albuquerque this October. The dates are Oct. 16 through 29. The itinerary includes an official visit with Mayor Chavez. As per the delegation's request, they will tour several national parks—Arches & Dead Horse Point in Utah; the Grand Canyon, Painted Desert and the Petrified Forest in Arizona; and White Sands and Carlsbad Caverns in NM. Locally, they will visit Old Town, the Aquarium and Botanical Gardens and take a tram ride up Sandia Peak. Santa Fe and Santo Domingo are also scheduled. The search is on to locate an Albuquerque high school interested in participating in an ongoing student exchange with Helmstedt. A German language program would be helpful but not necessary. Anyone with educational contacts should talk with Wolfram Krank. Also, Helmstedt has requested an internship for 2006.



P.O. Box 26693
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Fall 2005

Mailing

Address

Goes

Here

ALBUQUERQUE SISTER CITIES

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION Annual Dues

Membership is: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

P.O. Box 26693
Albuquerque, NM 87125



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

- | | | |
|--|----------|------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL ADULT | \$20.00 | NAME _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AMBASSADOR (AGE 21-35) | \$20.00 | ADDRESS _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY | \$30.00 | CITY _____ STATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL YOUTH (AGE 13-20) | \$ 7.50 | ZIP _____ PHONE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR CITIZEN (65 OR OLDER) | \$10.00 | E-mail/Fax _____ |
| <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 | |

Select Area of Interest on Other Side...

Check out the Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation Web Site
<http://www.albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation.org/>

Sasebo & Albuquerque Youth Sand Paintings

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A big thank you to the host families. Those hosting the Sasebo youth were: Chris and Karen Lawson and daughter Michelle; Paul & Denise Terrazas and daughter Amber; Russ & Kelly Gollen and daughter Carrie; Chantal & Dar Scott and daughter Ondin; Matias and Christina Del Toro and son Raymond; Mark & Cathy Dupuy and sons Nick and Ryan; Chris and Cathleen Schwars, son Clayton and daughter Christina; Gilbert and Liz Silva and son Jeremiah; and the Sticyr family and son Jeremy. Pam and John Feather hosted Naoko Doi, a chaparone. Michael and Jeremiah Sare hosted the city officials Naomi Takeguchi and Kenji Nakayama.



Albuquerque Through The Eyes of a Sasebo Youth

Kaho Rikitake looked ever so sharp in her school uniform at the welcoming dinner. She proudly sat at the table with her host family (Norman and Laurie Schuer and their children Clayton and Christina), other members of the Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation and Aiko, a translator. Although she did not understand English, She smiled a lot, being really happy to be where she was. Kaho, 14 years old (soon to be 15 in mid-August), said she missed her mother but not her little brother. When asked how the two sister cities (Albuquerque and Sasebo) were different, she said it was HOT here. At the farewell dinner, again with Aiko as translator, Kaho gave her impressions of her busy week. She said she was having such a good time that she really didn't want to leave. Her favorite activity was the hot air balloon ride. Yes, she had champagne after her bumpy landing—but it was poured over her head! She bought souvenirs—a T-shirt with a balloon on it, chocolate, a dream catcher, postcards and a wind ornament. Her favorite food of the week was spaghetti. Still smiling, more broadly if possible, Kaho was thoroughly enjoying herself. However a touch of sadness was noted as she talked about going home. But then again Albuquerque is truly the land of enchantment.

Kenji's Impressions

Kenji Nakayama is an officer of Cultural Interchange Division in Sasebo. He was one of the three adults in the Sasebo delegation to visit Albuquerque. This was his second trip to the United States. About ten years ago, he visited New York City. He found New York and Albuquerque as different as Tokyo and Sasebo. Where New York had tall buildings, with its scenery going up and; Albuquerque was expansive. He really liked the tram ride up Sandia Peak and the hot air balloon ride. The wide open spaces were most appealing.

The New Mexico scenery awed him—the volcanos, the sunsets, the broad horizon. When asked what he thought of our weather, he replied that it was milder than he expected. His favorite food here was steak—meat and beef just seem to go together! He had a wonderful week in Albuquerque and his enthusiasm showed as he participated in the final folk dance.



Kenji Nakayama enjoying the farewell dinner.

HELMSTEDT, Germany

The Albuquerque/Helmstedt committee is gearing up for a 7 member delegation who will be visiting Albuquerque this October. The dates are Oct. 16 through 29. The itinerary includes an official visit with Mayor Chavez. As per the delegation's request, they will tour several national parks—Arches & Dead Horse Point in Utah; the Grand Canyon, Painted Desert and the Petrified Forest in Arizona; and White Sands and Carlsbad Caverns in NM. Locally, they will visit Old Towne, the Aquarium and Botanical Gardens and take a tram ride up Sandia Peak. Santa Fe and Santo Domingo are also scheduled. The search is on to locate an Albuquerque high school interested in participating in an ongoing student exchange with Helmstedt. A German language program would be helpful but not necessary. Anyone with educational contacts should talk with Wolfram Krank. Also, Helmstedt has requested an internship for 2006.