

Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

FALL 2008

2008-2009

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Mediterranean
sunset at Tel Aviv
- 20 miles from
Rehovot.

Rehovot, Israel - ASCF'S New Sister City

Trip Remembrances by Richard Buckler, Delegate to the Rehovot Albuquerque Twining

The Holy Land--streaming with culture, alive with opportunity, blending three major religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Opportunities not without their challenges, but for most Arabs, Jews, and Christians a desire for long-lasting peace in which to raise families, develop businesses, and worship freely as one chooses.

It was against this backdrop on September 18 that sixteen members of an Albuquerque delegation led by Mayor Martin Chavez met onsite in Israel with Rehovot, Israel Mayor Joshua Forer, his Chief of Staff David Ashkenazy, his Head of Education and Culture Yacov Marcovitch, as well as other staff members to officially sign the joint proclamation declaring Rehovot and Albuquerque to be Sister Cities.

Founded in 1890 by a group of Polish immigrants led by Israel Belkind, Rehovot, Israel today has become a major force in science and technology, while showcasing a unique blending of Jewish heritage from not only Poland but also

Yemen, and a variety of other countries. Its Hebrew name means "wide expanses"

and the current approximately 120,000 residents and city leadership under Mayor Joshua Forer are doing just that--looking how to expand its influence throughout Israel and the world.

Immediately after the official signing, the Albuquerque Delegation toured sites especially important to Rehovot's history and future.

Site1: Weizmann Institute of Science. Named after the first President of the State of Israel, Rehovot's Weizmann Institute of Science certainly exemplifies Rehovot's "wide-expanses," touting world-leading advances in mathematics, computer science, physics, chemistry, biological chemistry and biology. The Delegation toured various locations at the facility, including seeing Chaim Weizmann's home once used to receive foreign heads of state.

Article continued on page 6 with photos.

From the President's Desk

Summer officially ended on September 22, but since our last newsletter Albuquerque Sister Cities (ASCF) has been busy. Many of you enjoyed our September 20 "Helmstedt-German Lunch" held at the Manzano Mesa Multi-Generational Community Center. Also, back on August 17, Serafians was the location for a wonderful presentation on rug-making by our Ashgabat committee. And depending on when you receive this newsletter, ASCF will once again host a booth September 28 at the Japanese cultural celebration "Aki Matsuri" to be held at the National Hispanic Cultural Center. Come on out (10 A.M. - 6 P.M.) and support us. **Identify yourself as one of our members and receive a free gift.**

Also, in this edition you'll be able to read about the Sister Cities International conference held in July at Kansas City. At the conference the buzz was how Albuquerque will host the 2010 con-

ference (July 29-31, 2010). We will have the initial privilege of showing off Albuquerque by hosting a promotion reception at the 2009 conference next summer in Belfast, Ireland.

Happy 25th Anniversary New Mexico Chinese Association. This organization is the support group for our Hualien, Taiwan sister city.

Perhaps the biggest recent highlight just occurred on September 18 in Rehovot, Israel. As the article on page 1 details, Rehovot joins Albuquerque as our 9th sister city. Welcome aboard, Rehovot!!

With all of the recent happenings we want you to stay "connected." Of course, our quarterly newsletter is a wealth of information thanks to our faithful editor, Carol Dawley. However, our website just got a facelift: www.albuquerque-sister-cities.org and click on the national flag of each of our 9 sister cities. Each section has

been expanded to include news and a picture gallery. Our Chairs/Co-Chairs will be continually updating these pages with the latest news and trip/event photographs. The new look also has a "Members Only" section under the membership tab where you, as an up-to-date paying or lifetime member, have access to the contact information for your fellow members. Older issues of our newsletter are also in this special section. We will look to add more Members Only benefits in the future.

If you need the password for this fiscal year, call Dave Bagley at 771-3114 or email him at dave3114@gmail.com. We've included the password on page 5 via a sticker for those of you who are either lifetime members or have already renewed this year. But, please call us if our records are incorrect.

Finally, please make a note of our new address: P.O. Box 26533, Albuquerque, NM 87125-6533. We apologize for any inconvenience this change may have caused those of you sending in renewals this summer to the old address.

On behalf of all of us on the board, we thank you for the privilege of serving you.

Richard

Richard Buckler, President

Meet Your Board: Kazumi Kawakubo and Pam Feather

Kazumi Kawakubo is the chair of the Sasebo, Japan committee. She was one of the first exchange high school students from Sasebo, Japan to Albuquerque. She liked Albuquerque so much that she settled here. It had always been her dream to take some students from Albuquerque to Sasebo, Japan. In 2003 she did just that. Since then, the Sasebo-Albuquerque youth cultural exchanges has been going strong. Currently she works at Eclipse Aviation.

Pam Feather is the co-chair for

the Sasebo, Japan committee. In 1989 Pam and her husband came from Colorado to Albuquerque. She began working with Kazumi at Digital Equipment Corp. (both are engineers); and since then has made 3 trips to Sasebo. Pam now teaches at Hope Christian School - science and robotics. She likes outdoor activities such as whitewater rafting, jet skiing, winter skiing, hiking and biking. Her 13 year old son, Chris, is also active outdoors including surfing and boogie boarding.

A contingent of youth from Sasebo are expected to come to Albuquerque in 2009.



Kazumi Kawakubo (left) and Pam Feather (right).

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Ashgabat Committee Holds Cultural Event

On Sunday August 17, 2008, the ASCF Ashgabat, Turkmenistan committee hosted a cultural event at Serafian's Oriental Rugs. Attendees savored various appetizers and sipped green tea while being surrounded by exquisite Oriental rugs. Some of the tidbits included bichek (a traditional food from Turkmenistan). This is basic dough filled with either spinach, mashed potatoes or mushrooms, fried and served with dips. There was also traditional bread served with red pepper hummus.

Oguljan Young, Chair for the Ashgabat committee, opened the program by welcoming all and thanking Serafian's for hosting the event. She also thanked Mellicie Myer, wife of Bill Myer the Co-Chair, for assisting with preparations and making the special Ashgabat brochures. A slide presentation followed with some information about Turkmenistan: It has 5 main states, a population of about 5 million people and is about the size of California. Its flag has 5 designs representing the 5 major tribes in Turkmenistan - Teke, Yomut, Arsary, Chowdur, and Saryk. (Note: There are over 200 tribes or clans in the country.) Mr. Joe Gabel, owner of Serafian's, then spoke about the rugs and their history. The oldest surviving knotted-pile carpet, the Pazyrk carpet, is 2,500 years old and was found in a burial mound in Siberia. Carpets are tradition-

ally rectangular in shape because originally it was thought that the earth was of that shape. Turkmenistan carpets are woven on a standing loom and a 7' x 12' carpet takes 4 to 5 women about 6 to 8 months to weave. The designs tend to be geometric and show four parts (for the 4 seasons) with each part having 3 sections (for the 3 months in each season). To compare the quality of a carpet, it is best to turn it over. The tighter and smaller the knots, the finer the weave which makes for better quality. Besides the many rugs on display, Mr. Gabel also has a carpet that would be used to line the outside of a yurt for decoration. There was a special headpiece worn by married women - it looks like a coat with the sleeves united. Also on display is the carpet woven especially for Albuquerque to commemorate the sister city relationship. Several attendees also go to see Serafian's "back room" where Oriental rugs are cleaned. Serafian's has a new cleaning method for area rugs. This "full immersion" method is the most thorough cleaning available for any hand-knotted or hand woven carpet.

Anyone wishing to visit Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, Albuquerque's sister city, should contact Oguljan Young at 977-6033. Travel to Ashgabat is being planned for October 2009.



Joe Gabel points to the "Silk Route" on a map held by Oguljan Young.



A model of a standing loom.



Oguljan Young and Joe Gabel in front of one of his rugs.

Red Ryder Thrills Ashgabat, Turkmenistan Residents

The United States Embassy requested of Albuquerque Sister Cities to locate a "cowboy" to come to Ashgabat, Turkmenistan to help the USA Embassy celebrate the Fourth of July. Dave Saunders, aka Red Ryder, volunteered to go. ASCF Chair of Ashgabat committee accompanied him. They departed here about the end of June and returned July 10. Not only did Red Ryder perform for the USA Embassy but he also went to several cultural centers, meeting with children and answering many questions about cowboys. He also performed in the National Theater of Turkmenistan for a packed audience and in the

public park. When asked what was the highlight of his trip, he replied, "The Akhalteke horses." He was given a tour of the Hippodrome where the special horses are bred, raised and raced and was most impressed with the beauty of the horses. When queried about souvenirs he brought back with him, he responded, "Some small pieces of the famous Turkmenistan carpets." He wanted a small silk scarf to tie around his neck but could only find the large sizes. Dave said he would definitely go back again. He attended the Turkmenistan reception on August 17 at Serafian's. The photo of him is taken at Serafian's standing by a southwest painting done by Placitas artist Arturo Chavez.



Dave Saunders, aka Red Ryder

SCI International Convention - July 2008

by Betty-Mae Hartman and Richard Buckler

In July 2008, SCI held its annual conference in Kansas City. Richard Buckler, Betty-Mae Hartman, and Alma Solis were in attendance, representing Albuquerque; joining over 600 participants from over 24 countries. Doubling their attendance from last year, one hundred youth simultaneously met.

The stated theme of the conference was "Sustainable Peace through Livable Communities." Not surprising, several keynote speeches as well as the workshops, high-lighted new strategic partnerships with organizations such as USAID, Proctor & Gamble, AYUSA, Open World Leadership Program, and the U.S. State Department. Attendees were also informed that the Sister Cities International Congressional initiative started at the 2006 conference in Washington D.C. has actually resulted in SCI being included for the first time on the general omnibus bill.

Such news raised the possibility that \$30 million may be available in the near future for several of the cultural and humanitarian projects in which so many member cities are currently engaged.

Our three delegates had praise for the conference in general, finding the facilities excellent. Betty-Mae marveled at the abundant volunteers provided by the Kansas City conference committee. The volunteers were everywhere with at least one at each workshop.

We all were particularly impressed at one of the one workshops, "Sustaining our Sister Cities," whose prime speaker was Keith Zooh from Proctor & Gamble's non-profit humanitarian section. Mr. Zooh demonstrated a new product to purify water on a small scale (5 kilograms), using a small packet of chemicals. Proctor & Gamble has formed a special branch to market this product to 3rd World Countries in desperate need for clean local water. Proctor & Gamble has been able to make

the chemical packets available for about 10 cents each.

Other workshops involved fundraising (Richard Buckler was on the panel), as well as suggestions on "How to Work with the media." Some ideas given were: introduce yourself to newspaper editors and radio and TV producers; invite them to all special events; write short releases which include names, occupations, country of origin, etc. and ask a member of the media to speak at a function.

On a more legal note, the SCI Board of Directors recommended adoption of some revisions to the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. Most of the changes recommended for the Articles of incorporation were cosmetic. However, the big change in the bylaws was on voting. Proxy voting is now allowed so that member cities that cannot afford to send all voting members to the annual conference will now have a voice! Proxies will be sent to SCI members weeks before the annual conference. Once received, the proxy votes cannot be recalled should additional nominations be made for write-in candidates. Information on all those on the slate will be sent with the proxy.

One important discussion throughout the conference highlighted the next two venues. In 2009 the conference will be held in Belfast, Ireland - the 1st ever outside the USA. AND - in 2010 Albuquerque, NM will be the host!!!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 28 - Aki Matsuri
(Japanese Fall Festival) 10am - 6pm -
Hispanic Cultural Center

October 2 - 20 - Helmstedt, Germany
youth to visit Albuquerque Academy

November 19 - ASCF Board Meeting
- Compass Bank - 505 Marquette -
14th floor - 5:30 pm - all welcome

2009

January 21 - ASCF Board Meeting
Compass Bank - 505 Marquette -
14th floor - 5:30 pm - all welcome

Spring - ASCF member trips to
Hualien, Taiwan & Sasebo, Japan

June 21 - ASCF Annual Meeting

July - SCI International Conference -
Belfast, Ireland

August - ASCF trip to Albuquerque,
Spain

October - ASCF Ashgabat Commit-
tee's trip to Turkmenistan

2010

July 29 - 31 - Albuquerque to host
SCI International Conference



Tel Aviv shoreline

NMCA Celebrates 25th

On August 30, 2008, the New Mexico Chinese Association celebrated its 25th anniversary. After a sumptuous potluck dinner, President Yu-Lin Shen welcomed all present including members of Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation (ASCF) and New Mexico Chinese Association (NMCA) board members. He then gave a brief history of the organization: It was founded in the summer of 1983 in response to the request of ASCF to create a Chinese community organization for maintaining the sister cities relationship between Hualien, Taiwan and Albuquerque. Dr. David Hsi was chair of the six member steering committee and then served as the founding president. Sidney Yen, the immediate past president, has served seven different times as president. The NMCA meets 5 times a year - annual meeting and potluck, Republic of China National Day reception, Christmas potluck, Chinese New Year celebration, and Mother's Day dinner. Richard Buckler, President of ASCF greeted all and thanked the NMCA for its outstanding support of sister cities. After a slide show of past activities,

(many of cake-cutting events), two young men performed several songs on the Erhu (a two-string Chinese instrument). One of the two also played a classical Spanish tune on his guitar. This was followed by the cutting of a beautifully decorated cake with all enjoying a piece.



Cutting the "Happy 25th Anniversary NMCA" cake is: David Hsi, Richard Buckler & Yu-Lin Shen



ASCF members enjoying dinner.

Member Website Password

No sticker?
Call Dave Bagley at 771-3114

Rehovot - Continued from page 1

Site 2: After a wonderful lunch hosted by Mayor Forer, the Delegation toured Rehovot's famous Ayalon Institute, located on the grounds of the Ayalon Kibbutzim. The site helps illustrate the determination that has come to characterize the Israeli people. Prior to the 1948 formation of the State of Israel, a secret ammunition-making project took place underground at this site even though the British patrolled the site and would have hanged anyone caught in such causes. Nevertheless, without Rehovot's contribution to the war-effort Israel would not have had the ammunition needed to hold on to its independence against Arab forces amassed against them after the British left the country.

While the Delegation was unable to tour Rehovot's Minkov Citrus Grove Museum due to a lack of time, it should be noted that the city is the site for Hebrew University's agricultural campus. Not surprisingly, Rehovot's agricultural and citrus production has positioned Rehovot over the years as a main citrus center in Israel.

Touring Israel's Historical Sites and Places of Remembrance:

During the days before and after the official meeting in Rehovot, Delegates enjoyed various tours in the country. In particular, several had a chance to visit Jerusalem's Old City still surrounded today by walls that show stones from the Roman/Herodian through the Ottoman Empire eras. Other sites visited included the Western Wall and Temple Mount upon which now sits the Muslim "Dome of the Rock" mosque. Some Delegates enjoyed seeing the traditional Christian holy sites of the Mount of Olives, Gethsemane, Calvary, and the Sepulcher. And, those delegates who took a side-trip to the Dead Sea were enriched with stops at Qumran (where the Isaiah scrolls were found), En Geddi, and Masada.

However, perhaps no site left a greater impression than that located on 45 acres of quiet hillside in New Jerusalem. This site, called Yad Vashem, meaning "A Memorial," commemorates and memorializes the tragic events of the Holocaust and serves to remind all people of the importance of life. In a land where too often the hate-filled actions of a few fill the headlines, Yad Vashem helps a person keep true perspective on life, and reminds him or her to continue to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for this great Holy Land. Shalom.



Mayors Forer and Chavez sign twinning proclamation as Harold Albert looks on.



Mayors Chavez and Forer celebrate the signing with Harold Albert and ASCF President Richard Buckler.

A Fond Farewell to the Youngs

Oguljan and Nathan Young are relocating to Williamsport, Pennsylvania. ASCF will miss their energetic participation in our program. Wednesday, September 24, 2008 was their last board meeting. Oguljan served as Chair for the Ashgabat, Turkmenistan committee. Any inquiries concerning the Ashgabat program should be directed to the Co-Chair of the Ashgabat committee, Bill Myers. His phone number is 821-8774 and his email is bill.myer@yahoo.com. Nathan Young was the 3rd Vice President of ASCF whose responsibilities covered membership. Dave Bagley will be interim 3rd Vice President. Membership questions should be directed to Dave at 771-3114 or dave3114@gmail.com.

Alma Solis Honored by Chihuahua

Alma Solis, ASCF Chair of the Chihuahua, Mexico committee was recognized by the city of Chihuahua, Mexico for her help with hospitalized children that have cancer.

Helmstedt Committee Hosts a German Luncheon

On Saturday September 20, 2008, the Albuquerque Sister Cities Helmstedt Committee hosted a German Luncheon. It was held at the Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center. The appetizing menu consisted of bratwurst from Alpine Sausage Kitchen, red cabbage (authentic recipe), roasted potatoes and home made apple strudel. The attendees not only dined to German music but were treated to a CD-slide show of the latest ASCF group visit to Helmstedt, Germany in October 2007 and a video show of the Rhine River Valley.

A silent auction was held with the \$70 raised going toward the ASCF youth program.



Jerry Jaramillo, co-chair for the Helmstedt committee receives some strudel from Nobuko Krank.



Julia Stone and Sidney Yen check out the silent auction.

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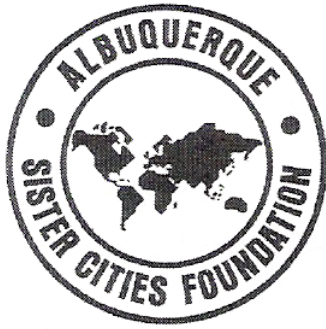


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In This Issue...

Albuquerque's Newest Sister City - Rehovot, Israel

Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

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		FOUNDATION, INC.	
Membership is: <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal			
<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...			

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