

Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

Summer 2014

2014 - 2015

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Students From Sasebo, Japan Visit Albuquerque

By Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman

A youth delegation (11 active and talented students and 4 chaperones) from Sasebo, Japan visited Albuquerque July 25-31. This visit was the 3rd youth group from Sasebo since the start of the youth exchange program between the two cities in 2003. All students were placed with host families for their stay. Some of the many activities were a hot air balloon ride, coordinated by Dave Bagley; a welcome reception/pizza party at Richard and Mary Hope Buckler's house; a tour of Eclipse Aerospace; a collaborative project using Japanese floating lanterns and planting trees at the Sa-

sebo Japanese Garden at the Albuquerque Bio-Park; the Museum of Art and the Balloon Museum.

At the pond in the Sasebo Japanese Garden on July 30th at 7:45 PM, floating lights and the lanterns made by the visiting and hosting students were released as part of the Japanese Obon (summer memorial) celebration.

That same evening the farewell gathering banquet was held at the Desert Greens Golf Course in Paradise Hills. At the dinner, each student and his host student shared their most memorable experiences. The next day, there were many tears and friendly hugs at the airport when final farewells were said.

Plans will begin soon for the 4th Albuquerque youth group to visit Sasebo (possibly in 2015).



Enjoying a balloon ride— Japanese students Saki Yamaguchi and Ion Yoshiura



Japanese students with their host family "brothers or sisters" display their lanterns.



Sasebo guests enjoying the trampoline in Richard Buckler's back-yard.

More
photos on
page 6

From the President's Desk...

LABOR DAY—Synonymous to Americans as a September holiday to get away, hopefully relax, or just enjoy a traditional backyard BBQ, wine festival, sporting event or concert.

While we just celebrated this important holiday which pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of our work-force, those of us that are part of the Sister Cities family, realize that across the world the Labor Movement is celebrated in many different ways. International Workers Day on May 1 is prominent in our sister city of Lanzhou, China and Hualien, Taiwan. In Mexico (sister cities of Chihua-

hua and Guadalajara) May 1 is known as *Día del Trabajo*. May 1 is not officially designated a workers' holiday in Sasebo, Japan, but Nov. 23 *Niname-sui* is Labor Thanksgiving Day, combining the ancient harvest festival with modern tributes. Germany, home to our sister city of Helmstedt, celebrates May 1 as *Tag der Arbeit*. This holiday even transcended both East and West differences in a formerly divided past. In Albuquerque, Spain, especially since the post-Franco period, May 1 is now an official holiday. And, our soon-to-be sister city of Lusaka, Zambia, recently in 2009 joined much of the rest of the world in designating May 1 as a worker's holi-

day.

While no official holiday is designated in our sister city Rehovot, Israel, appreciation for the worker has deep historical roots. Ashgabat, Turkmenistan has various special celebrations for Women, Workers of Culture and Art, and Harvest.

No matter how we celebrate it, we intrinsically know that many of the benefits and blessings enjoyed today, are due to the workers who made the dreams of families, entrepreneurs, corporations, and governments possible. It reminds me of why your Albuquerque Sister Cities organization continues to succeed—because of its great volunteers like you, that go hand-in-hand with partnerships with the City, County and Community.

I hope your Labor Day was enjoyable. You deserved it! And, if you can't wait until next September to celebrate again, join one of your sister cities in celebrating earlier.

Thank you for your continued support.

Richard

ASCF Youth Coordinator

Hyunju J. Blemel is one of ASCF's new Youth Coordinators. As a member of the class of 2016 at Eldorado High School, she speaks Korean, Spanish and English. She has worked with RoboRAVE and volunteers as an instructor at Kim's Martial Arts, as well as a teacher at Valles Caldera National Preserve.



Hyunju (pictured on left), along with Katie Krizek, helped welcome our Sasebo exchange students at Richard and Mary Hope Buckler's house—where pizza, games, and fun was enjoyed by all.



Above: Richard Buckler with former U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta at the July SCI Conference in San Jose, California. Secretary Mineta was a personal friend of ASCF founder Rush Hashimoto. He fondly recalled meeting her for the first time at the Heart Mountain, Wyoming Relocation Camp during WW2. Like Ruth, Secretary Mineta rose above circumstances to give back to society, serving the San Jose area as City Counselor, Mayor and then US Congressman. Under President Bill Clinton, Mr. Mineta was appointed Commerce Secretary. Well-liked by both sides of the aisle, Secretary Mineta was appointed by President Bush to be Transportation Secretary—a post he held during Sept 11, 2001 and the following five-years.

**Coming Oct 2-
New Sister City of Lusaka, Zambia**



Above: Look for the new LINK on our website: www.albuquerque-sister-cities.org.

Click on the Zambia flag icon on the Home Page. **Consider donating with PayPal button on Lusaka page to defray the start-up costs.** See page 6 for more visit details.

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Joven Ballet de Jalisco Performs in Albuquerque

Under the artistic directorship of Dariusz Blajer, the Joven Ballet of Jalisco performed at Albuquerque's National Hispanic Cultural Center August 15-17. The Guadalajara-based troupe is Mexico's newest classical ballet company. They danced three pieces: "La Muerte del Angel," "Ciao Mama" and "Easy Winners." ASCF members attended the Sunday performance for free, just one more example of the gener-

osity between our two cities.

Now, get ready. More cultural excitement from Guadalajara!

Ballet Folklorico de Guadalajara will be coming to Albuquerque in mid-November. The tentative dates for their visit are November 12-17. Details about their main presentation on Nov. 14 will be forthcoming! Check the calendar on our website for updates. www.albuquerque-sister-cities.org



Left: Joven Ballet dancers performing "La Muerte del Angel."

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 18—ASCF Board Meeting—5:45 PM—Sandia Labs Federal Credit Union—3707 Juan Tabo NE—all welcome.

Sept 27—ASCF Youth Event. 1—3 PM. Youth Japanese Cultural Afternoon Tea. For more information and to RSVP by Sept 20, email Hyunju Blemel, our new Youth Coordinator: hyunju3@hotmail.com.

Sept. 26—Oct. 6—Lusaka, Zambia delegation to Albuquerque

Oct. 2— Official MOU signing with Lusaka—City Council Chambers. 4 P.M.

Oct. 4—Special luncheon for ASCF members to meet our Lusaka delegation. Location: Nexus Brewery 4730 Pan American East Fwy. NE, Suite D. RSVP to Richard Buckler, rbuckler3@comcast.net or 291-8175 by Sept 30. Due to limited seating, please no walk-ins. Cost: non-members \$17, members \$12. Price includes limited menu plus soft-drink and gratuity. Send checks by Sept 30 to: ASCF PO Box 26533, Albuquerque, NM 87125-6533.

October 9-20—ASCF trip to Lanzhou, China. Direct any questions to Chair Dr. David Hsi (email: Hsialbuquerque8@aol.com or 345-3866).

November 12 -17— Visit and performance by Ballet Folkloric de Guadalajara. Times and venue to be posted on website. **HOME HOSTS NEEDED** for the 24 dancers. See page 5 for contact information.

ASCF Attends SCI International Conference

Richard Buckler, David Hsi, Gina Solis, Oguljan Young and Alma Solis, ASCF board members, attended the annual SCI International conference in San Jose, California this past July. Here are their reports:

David Hsi—I have attended three SCI conferences since the time I first affiliated with ASCF in 1983. The 58th SCI conference in San Jose was the second best after the 30th anniversary one held in Universal Studio, CA. The digital technology in those 28 years certainly has made rapid progress. I enjoyed the pre-conference tour of Adobe, Google and Intel Museum. The Opening Ceremony and Parade of Flags were very impressive. Thanks to ASCF President Richard Buckler's effort, it was impressive to see Albuquerque, NM flag in line in the parade among some 50 plus flags of various sister cities around the world. I attended several sessions and learned from the speakers about connecting sister cities

programs with federal, state and municipal governments; "Intel's Internet of Things" and using the SCI websites and member benefits. It was good to see youth leadership members from many nations, the future of SCI, throughout the conference. I enjoyed renewing acquaintances of old friends and making new friends. The City of San Jose's welcome reception at the Tech Museum of Innovation was very impressive. This museum was quite innovative and contained many hands-on exhibits. It compared favorably with our own Explora Science Center and Children Museum of which I am a founding board member.

Georgina Solis—The fusion of technology, beautiful architecture and fine arts which surrounded such a beautiful mission town as San Jose is immensely impressive. The conference itself was packed with knowledgeable panels discussing, to name a few, di-

aspora, sports diplomacy and social media marketing. The amount of knowledge of SCI networking and successful endeavors, which was passed around between seasoned board members to new members was inspiring and motivating. Thank you to the City of San Jose for receiving us so warmly and for being such a class act.

Richard Buckler—In addition to the comments of my colleagues above, I was impressed with the high level of participation by "Silicon Valley" executives, which added great insights on how technology has already and will continue to affect our very lives. Get ready for Smart Cities! Examples: find the open parking spot downtown. Reduced traffic congestion, and more. The push is on to get internet to everyone in the world. Such changes will impact how we interact with our sister cities, but can never replace the importance of simple friendship one person at a time.

ASCF Annual Meeting

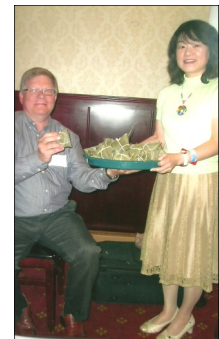
On Sunday, June 8 ASCF held its annual meeting at the "Buffet King" restaurant. Our two Chinese sister cities were featured—Lanzhou, China and Hualien, Taiwan. About 60 ASCF members and guests were present. Among the honored guests were Councilman Rey Garduno and his wife Ilsa and the City of Albuquerque Economic Development Director Gary Oppedahl and his wife Beverly.

Yu-Lin and Rubing Shen talked about the "Dragon festival" in China. Rubing distributed tasty treats eaten during the festival. David Hsi talked about the upcoming trip to China. Lanzhou will be visited as well as other cities such as Shanghai.

The ASCF officers for 2014-2015 were elected—Richard Buckler, President (2 yr); Oguljan Young, 1st Vice President (2 yr); Carol Dawley 2nd Vice President (1 yr); Dave Bagley 3rd Vice President (1 yr); Mary Hope Buckler, Secretary (1 yr) and Carl Londene, Treasurer (1 yr). The committee chairs/co-chairs each spoke about what was happening with their sister city.



Above: Gary Oppedahl thanks members for their volunteerism.



Richard Buckler & Rubing Shen



R: ASCF Board Chairs and Co-Chairs.

Turkmen Visit Albuquerque

A delegation from Turkmenistan was in Albuquerque May 16-25, 2014. They were here as part of US State Department's Open World grant to study Event Management. The delegates were Dovlet Owezdurdiyev, Deputy Chairman of the Committee of Sports in the city of Turkmenabat; Kakabya Durdyev, an officer of the Protocol Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan; Serdar Badayev, Head of the commercial advertising department at the Touristic Company "Ahalsyyahat" and Eziz Ishangulyev, stage director at the main drama theater of Turkmenistan.

After a busy day starting with hot air balloon rides, Alana McGrattan hosted a reception for them in her

historic adobe home. She served an American BBQ.

It was a busy week filled with lots of meetings. On Monday they met with Sarah Cobb, District Manager at US Senator Udall's office; Mayor Berry; Rey Guarduno at City Council Chambers; Jose Garcia General Manager at the Convention Center; Albuquerque Convention and Visitor's Bureau representatives; and Randy Mascarela, Executive Director and Chris Page, Vice President of Special Olympics. Tuesday they met with Gary Oppedahl, Economic Development Director for Albuquerque; toured University of New Mexico Popejoy concert hall and toured the New Mexico School of Music. A trip to Santa Fe happened on Wednesday. Here they met with

Santa Fe opera officials. In the afternoon they toured the Museum of Indian Art and Culture and the International Art Museum and met with New Mexico Department of Tourism Director of Communications, Rebecca Latham. They also met with the Mayor of Santa Fe, Javier Gonzales. On Thursday they met with Betty Rivera, Cultural Services Director and her Event Management Team and the organizers of the International Balloon Fiesta, Don Edwards, Event Director. On Friday they toured the Lobo Stadium facility and met with Sports Organizers. Afternoon activities included the Children's Museum Explora, Albuquerque Aquarium and zoo, meeting with the Bio-Park Executive Director Rick Janser. On their last day here they finished up some last minute shopping and attended a closing reception in their honor at the home of former Peace Corp Turkmenistan Director, Mellie Myer. It was a potluck featuring a taco/burrito bar. All members were invited to come.



Left: The Turkmen visitors at Albuquerque City Council. L to R: Richard Buckler, ASCF President; Dovlet Owezdurdiyev; Eziz Ishangulyev; Sally Alice Thompson, 1st Ashgabat Chairperson; City Counselor Rey Guarduno; Serdar Badayev; Kakabya Durdyev; and US Embassy Turkmen facilitator M. Byashiyeva.

Ballet Folklorico from Guadalajara, Mexico is Coming to Albuquerque in November

ASCF's Guadalajara committee is pleased to announce that the Guadalajara Ballet Folklorico is coming to Albuquerque November 12-17, 2014. They will be performing at the National Hispanic Cultural Center. Home hosts are needed for the 24 member delegation. For more information about the performance and home stays, please contact Guadalajara Chair, Jose Luis Cruz-Campa at 915-760-3291 or joecampa@yahoo.com. Or, Co-Chair Marie Trigg at mtsanblas51@gmail.com.

**24 Home Hospitality
Hosts Needed
November 12-17
<== contact info**

ASCF Chair Visits Hualien, Taiwan

By Yu-Lin Shen

ASCF Hualien Chair, Yu-Lin Shen visited Hualien City, Taiwan on July 11, 2014 and was warmly received by Mayor Chih-hsuan Tien. He and his staff expressed appreciation of the mutual visits by officials and ASCF representatives during the past years. He emphasized the importance of citizen diplomacy, and thanked ASCF for actively engaging in sister cities activities.



Mayor Chih-hsuan Tien and Yu-Lin Shen



Lunch reception hosted by Mayor's wife, Mrs. Mei-hui Chang and Hualien City Council Chairperson Ms. Mei Chu Su. A number of city officials also attended.

More photos from Japanese Youth Visit :



Cake welcoming Japanese Delegation



Japanese Delegation and home stay hosts.



Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman (center) poses in front of Sasebo Japanese Garden bell tower with delegation chaperones—L to R: Nahoko Seki, Takako Ishibashi, Kenichiro Oyama and Hiroko Iizuka.

New Sister City—Lusaka, Zambia

September 26—October 6, 2014 a mayoral delegation from Lusaka, Zambia will visit Albuquerque with the purpose to sign a MOU/twinning agreement between the two cities. It is expected that a reciprocal visit by Albuquerque officials will take place next year (date TBD). Coming here will be Deputy Mayor Potipher Tembo, along with City Clerk McBride Sekeleti; City Councilor Adam

Mwanza; Public Relations First Secretary Patricial Littiya; University of Zambia Dean of School of Mines Dr. Osbert Sikawze; and Zambia's Ambassador to the U.S. Palan Mulonda. The delegation has a full schedule planned including trips to Clovis and Santa Fe. In a ceremony at the City Council chambers on October 2 both cities will sign a MOU/Agreement beginning the sister city connection.

Oct. 4—Special luncheon for ASCF members to meet and greet Lusaka delegation. Location: Nexus Brewery 4730 Pan American East Fwy. NE, Suite D. Time: 11:30—1 PM. RSVP to Richard Buckler, rbuckler3@comcast.net or 291-8175 **by Sept 30. Sorry, no walk-ins. Cost: non-members \$17, members \$12.** Price includes group menu choices plus soft-drink and gratuity. Send checks to: ASCF PO Box 26533, Albuquerque, NM 87125.

ASCF Members Visit Helmstedt, Germany

By Nathan Young

A group of six led by Helmstedt Chair Nathan Young took a 10-day trip to Germany this August to visit ASCF sister city of Helmstedt. On the way to Helmstedt, they stayed two nights in Berlin and one night in Dresden. Both cities were toured by bus.

They stayed 4 nights in Helmstedt with host families. Nathan stayed with Mecki and Renate Jordan who have visited Albuquerque 3 times. Pam and John Feather stayed with Siegfried and Mari- anne Dehning. Siegfried is a member of a local Helmstedt Rock and Jazz Band. Barbara Leonard stayed with an English teacher,

Sabine Klippenstein. Virgil and Dee Denning stayed with Detlef and Ulrike Weddig. The Weddigs along with Sabine were part of the Helmstedt delegation that visited Albuquerque in 2013 to celebrate our 30th anniversary of twinning.

In Helmstedt, the group met with Mayor Shobert who was presented with Jemez pottery, green chili and a balloon calendar. The City of Helmstedt is in the process of incorporating a few of the smaller villages in its surroundings. After the meeting, the city provided the group with a walking tour of its historic center.

Helmstedt also provided the group with a tour of Werningerode, a half-

timbered city in the foothills of the Harz Mountains; the Helmstedt Border museum; the new Speer Museum in Schoningen and the former border and checkpoint Alpha. A lovely farewell dinner was held at the Jordan's home. During the dinner, Helmstedt Sister Cities President Joachim Scherrieble emphasized the importance of our German-American relationship.

During the last two days in Germany, the group stayed in Mainz. From there they visited Heidelberg Castle, the Cathedral in Cologne and went on a Rhine River cruise. The next trip to Helmstedt will be in the late summer or early fall of 2016.



In front of a remnant of the Berlin Wall: L to R— Pam and John Feather, Barbara Leonard, Nathan Young and Virgil and Dee Denning



In Front of Helmstedt's Rathaus, City Hall: ASCF delegation with Helmstedt friends. Helmstedt's Mayor Shobert is on far right.



Overlooking the Rhine River: L to R—Virgil & Dee, Barbara, Nathan, John and Pam.

Annual Membership Dues

Please check the mailing label on the back of this newsletter to see when your membership expires. If the label shows 6/30/14 or earlier, please take a few minutes and renew your membership. By mail, fill out application on the newsletter back and mail it with your payment. For online renewal, simply

access our membership web page at—<http://albuquerque-sister-cities.org/members/start.php>. The process is easy, takes just a few minutes and there is no service charge to you. Questions or comments, please contact Dave Bagley, Membership Chair at 771-3114 or email membership@albuquerque-sister-cities.org

ASCF YOUTH EVENT:

Sept 27— 1—3 PM.
Youth Japanese Cultural Afternoon Tea.
 For more information and to **RSVP by Sept 20**, email Hyunju Blemel, our new Youth Coordinator (see page 2) hyunju3@hotmail.com.

**ALBUQUERQUE SISTER
CITIES FOUNDATION**

P.O.Box 26533
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**Inside this issue: ASCF annual meeting, Sasebo students visit,
Turkmen Open World delegation, ASCF trip to Helmstedt
and Sister City Update on Lusaka, Zambia**

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THE ALBUQUERQUE
sister
cities
FOUNDATION, Inc.

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult - Single/Family | \$20/\$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65 or older) – Single/Family | \$10/\$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (13-20) | \$7.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (21-35) | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small Business (15 or fewer employees) | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large Business (more than 15 employees) | \$300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reciprocal non-profit organization | N/C |

Membership Application

☐ New ☐ Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Website: W.W.W.ALBUQUERQUE-SISTER-CITIES.ORG