



## **September 2019**

### **President's Greetings**

It has been a busy summer for ASCF with outgoing trips and receiving guests in Albuquerque! Take time to read the various articles in the newsletter.

October is filled with opportunities for ASCF members. The first annual Albuquerque Oktoberfest is taking place October 11th and 12th at Rio Bravo Brewing Company in Albuquerque. Helmstedt Germany visitors will be in Albuquerque October 28 through 31. Their farewell gathering is October 31 at Red Horse Bed and Breakfast in Albuquerque. Members are encouraged to attend. More details for the events can be found under Upcoming Events.

If you would like to be more involved, please reach out to the chairs of the twin cities. Each Chair is always looking for committee members to call upon when planning their various events.

Kind Regards,  
Pamela V. Feather  
ASCF President

### **Annual Meeting**

On June 9 ASCF held its Annual Meeting and Election of new officers at the La Fonda Del Bosque Restaurant located on the grounds of the National Hispanic Cultural Center. Outgoing President Oguljan Young opened the ceremonies which featured catered food from City Treats Parties and entertainment from the local National Institute of Flamenco. Alan Armijo, City of Albuquerque Director of Constituent Services, represented Mayor Keller and thanked ASCF for its valuable and timely service to the community.

The new slate of officers for the fiscal year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 is:

Pam Feather – President

Mellie Myer—1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Marie Trigg – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Social Chair

Dave Bagley – 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President/Membership Chair

Sybil Keyser – Secretary

Richard Buckler – Treasurer

Honorable Mention was given to Carol Dawley, longtime 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P., Social Chair, and Newsletter Editor, who announced she will be moving to Arizona to be closer to family.



*ASCF board members gather together at La Fonda Del Bosque restaurant at the NHCC-- the site for our June annual meeting. From L to R: Lin Ye, David Hsi (front), Yu-Lin Shen (back), Richard Buckler, Dave Bagley, Mellie Myer, Sybil Keyser, Ray Heidfeld, Oguljan Young, Nathan Young, Carol Dawley, Pam Feather, Marie Trigg, and Ernie Garcia.*



*City of Albuquerque's Director of Constituent Services shares a light moment with ASCF's incoming/outgoing presidents Pam Feather (L) and Oguljan Young (R).*



*Flamenco dancers from National Institute of Flamenco provided entertainment at ASCF's June Annual Meeting*

### **Chihuahua, Mexico**

Article by Richard Buckler.

In June a delegation led by Mayor Tim Keller and First Lady Elizabeth Keller visited our sister city of Chihuahua, Mexico with the expressed purpose of establishing a Bilateral Partnership. Chihuahua has long had a sister city relationship with Albuquerque since 1983, but under the new bilateral guidelines working committees in the areas of education, business, economic development, infrastructure (police, fire, aviation), and cultural affairs will meet during each year to share best practices.

Pam Feather, ASCF's new president, made a point of being part of the delegation due to the importance of the sister city relationship. Richard Buckler, as New Mexico State Representative for Sister Cities International, also was able to attend.

The meetings in Chihuahua left some time for a day to visit the famous Copper Canyon and the Tarahumaras. A surprise included a “Concert in The Park” at night which included a wonderful fireworks display.

Refer to the Albuquerque Journal article dated June 28, 2019 by Stephen Hamway, entitled: “Albuquerque, Chihuahua ink bilateral partnership” for more information and pictures on the reciprocal visit to Albuquerque by Chihuahua Mayor María Eugenia Campos Galván.



*Mayor Tim and Elizabeth Keller initiate the Bilateral commission between Albuquerque and Chihuahua--here pictured with Education and Economic Development Chihuahua officials.*



*Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller participates in the official kick-off of the Bilateral Commission with our Sister City of Chihuahua, Mexico.*



*Chihuahua Concert under the stars erupts in a beautiful fireworks display to Beethoven and Bach renditions.*



*Enjoying the beauty of Copper Canyon/Chihuahua is (L to R): Synthia Jaramillo (COA Economic Dev. Dir), Nyika Allen (COA Dir of Aviation), Yuriria Morales (Alb Hispano Chamber of Commerce International Markets & Tourism Dir), and ASCF's President Pam Feather.*



*Tram ride anyone? Then, go to Copper Canyon! L to R: Pam Feather, Celeste Nunez, Richard Buckler, Synthia Jaramillo, Elizabeth Keller, and Nyika Allen are feeling the true meaning of Bienvenidos!*

### **Albuquerque, Spain**

Article by Kate Bowen, 7th grade teacher for cross-category language arts at Madison Middle School and Kurt Hedin, 4th grade teacher at Bandelier Elementary

As we drove north after an adventurous experience in beautiful Badajoz, the outline of a castle upon a hill emerged in the hot afternoon sun: Albuquerque, our Sister City, presented itself at last! We parked our rental car along a slender cobblestone road and wandered onto the plaza. Locals milled about the open square as we made ourselves familiar with the layout. Ultimately, we found our destination: Radio Comarca Albuquerque, the broadcast station where we met our Sister City contact, Pablo Cordovilla (Thanks to Pam and John Feather!). Our friendly host gave us a brief tour before guiding us to the Oficina de Turismo. From there we were treated to an informative guided tour of the historic Castile de Luna, a formidable bastion from the 13th to 15th centuries. The views from atop the castle afforded us vistas of the original medieval village below as well as Portugal, a mere 20 kilometers away. Afterwards,

a drive about the village allowed us to explore the close-knit village which contained a mixture of modern and historic buildings. Our tight schedule limited our ability to explore the village as deeply as we wanted, but we greatly appreciated the generous hospitality of the Albuquerqueños who made our experience meaningful and memorable. We absolutely cannot wait for an opportunity to go back for an extended visit to our city's namesake!



*L to R: Pablo Cordovilla, Kate Bowen, Kurt Hedin*



*Castile de Luna*



*Our Sister City Albuquerque, Spain*

## Helmstedt, Germany

Article by Nathan Young Helmstedt Chair

Between 2016 and 2018, Albuquerque Chair Nathan Young and its sister city Helmstedt Chair Siegfried Dehning discussed organizing a joint music program for its youth. It was decided that the two sister cities would organize a music program for the summer of 2019 for the youth. Initially the plan was for students from Helmstedt to visit Albuquerque and stay with host families for 10 days. They would rehearse and perform together at two public venues. Two weeks later the Albuquerque students would go to Helmstedt to rehearse and perform. In January of 2019 it was decided that students from Albuquerque would go to Helmstedt and form a band with students in Helmstedt and Helmstedt would send students to Albuquerque at a later year.

Ten Albuquerque students from three public schools signed up to go to Helmstedt. Eisenhower Middle school and Albuquerque Youth Symphony Director Sam Nesbit volunteered to be the director of would become a Sister City Youth band. A meeting on Skype was held with between Sam Nesbit and the Helmstedt music school director Gheorghe Herdeanu and it was decided that Sam would be the lead Director and head of the music program. Prior to the group departing for Germany, Sam Nesbit ordered the music and arranged for the youth to rehearse 3 times at his music department band room at Eisenhower Middle school.

The students traveled with Sam Nesbit, chaperon Katheryn Probasco and Helmstedt Chair Nathan Young from July 9th to July 20th. Along with visiting Helmstedt, the group also toured parts of Berlin, Potsdam, Konigslutter, Hannover and Helmstedt's Sister city Haldensleben. In Haldensleben the group visited the deputy Mayor and was provided a private city tour. They also visited the gardens of Hundisburg castle and attended a classical trumpet performance. During their time in Helmstedt the Albuquerque students received a guided walking tour of the city and met with Helmstedt Mayor Schobert. The students rehearsed with students from Helmstedt and performed on July 18th in Helmstedt's former university building Juleum built in 1592. The students performed the "Hungarian Dance", "Three Ayres", "The Forge of Vulcan", "Pirates of the Caribbean", "Salvation is created" and the United States and German national anthems. The performance was well attended and received. It was widely promoted by Helmstedt prior to the event and two local newspapers even published articles detailing the success of the performance and on the Sister Cities relationship between Albuquerque and Helmstedt.



*Delegation from Albuquerque with Helmstedt Mayor Schobert (center front) and Helmstedt Sister Cities members.*



*Albuquerque and Helmstedt students practicing for their performance on July 18<sup>th</sup>*



*Helmstedt's former university building Juleum built in 1592 where the concert was held.*



*It's a full house at the July 18th performance held in Helmstedt's 16<sup>th</sup> century Juleum building.*



*Albuquerque delegation sightseeing in Berlin at the Brandenburg Gate.*



*What are the chances of two Albuquerqueans meeting on the same walking tour in Berlin?*

*John Woods (R), one of ASCF's youth delegates to Turkmenistan in 1994, was spotted by Helmstedt Committee Chair Nathan Young. Wonder what gave John away??*

## Sasebo, Japan

Article by Marie Trigg and Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman

The Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation welcomed ten middle and high school students to Albuquerque with a Welcome Gathering at Old Town Farm following their balloon ride Sunday morning. They were accompanied by their host families. The week of July 27<sup>th</sup> through August 4<sup>th</sup> was full of activities including a hot air balloon ride, a visit with Mayor Keller, visits to several museums, historical sites, CNM Culinary Arts Institute, and the Sasebo Japanese Garden at the Albuquerque BioPark. The last activity day was on Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Sasebo Youth Delegates and the hosting brothers and sisters worked together on a service project for the Sasebo Japanese Garden and toured the Aquarium at the Albuquerque BioPark.

Beginning in 2003, there have been eight student exchanges. A total of 85 Japanese and American students have participated. The next scheduled exchange is in summer 2021 when an Albuquerque youth delegation will go to Japan.

The purpose of the Youth Exchange is to further the Sister Cities' mission of promoting world peace and friendship between nations through people to people diplomacy.



*Sasebo students and Albuquerque host students with Mayor Tim Keller*



*Sasebo students balloon ride experience arranged by Dave Bagley.*



*Student delegates from Sasebo perform special dance at the Old Town Farm on July 28.*

## **Sister Cities International Conference in Houston, Texas:** Article by Richard Buckler

The Sister Cities International (SCI) Annual Conference this year was held in downtown Houston, Texas. Sister Cities International's President and CEO, Roger-Mark De Souza, cited the following facts about the Houston Conference:

- There were 641 total conference registrants, 235 were existing members, 79 were non-member registrants, 33 were young professionals, 57 were guests, 105 were members of the Chinese delegation, and 132 were registered for YLS (Youth Leadership Summit).
- 18 countries outside the United States were represented; they were Australia, Belarus, China, Cameroon, Germany, Ecuador, Egypt, Great Britain, Ghana, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Venezuela, and Uganda. The top three were China with 134, Ecuador with 28 and Ghana with 24.
- 34 of 50 states were represented at the conference; Texas had the most registrants with 129, second was California with 46, and third was Arizona with 20. YLS
- Of the 132 YLS registrants, 95 were from member cities, while 38 were non-member registrants.

There were four special focuses on Africa, Mexico, Germany, and China. Of these, both China and Africa summits were held a day before the main conference. New Mexico's own Carol Robertson Lopez, Vice-Chair of SCI, chaired the China Summit, and declared it to be a great success with nearly 150 registrants. The Africa forum had 77 registrants. Richard Buckler, New Mexico's State Representative for SCI who attended the Africa forum reported that approximately 80 registrants participated of which 19 States were represented, along with attendees from Ghana and Egypt. Ernie Garcia, our Guadalajara Committee Chair, attended the special mini forum focused on Mexico, which overlapped with other thematic sessions during the conference.

Some of these "Thematic Highlights tackled emerging issues such as:

- o Resilience –How to imbue our work and programming with resilience in mind. A special focus on environmental resilience and promoting resilience through social capital.
  - o Engaging mid-career professional – Engaging and leveraging the experience and network of mid-career professionals is integral to remaining the premier network of citizen diplomacy.
  - o Disinformation – People-to-people networks are the first level of defense against disinformation. Our SCI network, combined with our focus on mutual respect and understanding puts SCI in a prime position to tackle disinformation.
  - o Human Trafficking – Cities are the first level of response to human trafficking. The processes and institutions within a city, developed through best-practice sharing, can help alleviate this issue.
- Of course, the major theme of the conference was "Cities Mean Business." This theme was covered in sessions focused on:
- o Promoting the arts and culture – Art is a universal language. Using this as a basis to form personal connections is integral to SCI's approach.
  - o Stimulating business and trade –

This year's conference brought a renewed focus on the business of sports and e-sports. The U.S. – China Mayor's summit shared best practices and strategies for creating smart cities focused on holistic and sustainable development.

- o Inclusive programming, youth and underserved populations – The YLS agenda promoted hands-on skill development for the youth around entrepreneurship, STEM, innovation, diplomacy, and leadership. Sessions focusing on woman's leadership discussed the challenges facing women in leadership roles, while exploring areas of programmatic interest to women.

- o Serving our members – Roundtables and how-to sessions offered members tools and skills for growing their Sister City program. The newly created City Connection Marketplace encourages multilateral connections that foster multiple points of contact, and as a result, stronger relationships.

But no conference is complete without a few esteemed guests.

- o We had the honor of hosting members of three Presidential families. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend was given the Eisenhower Peace Prize and gave a rousing speech at our Opening Ceremony.

- o Merrill Eisenhower Atwater, CEO of People-to-People International, discussed areas of collaboration between People-to-People and SCI.

- o During our Gala, President George W. Bush spoke about leadership, decision-making, and the importance of citizen diplomacy.



*San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg- SCI Chair- addresses SCI Conference Attendees in Houston. Note Albuquerque flag on far left.*

**Lusaka, Zambia**

Western University in Silver City is expanding its International Student programs, according to Zambia's New Mexico Honorary Consul Patrick Mapalo, who was recently in Silver City to place another Zambian student at WU. Recently, our Treasurer Richard Buckler, who is also the Sister Cities International New Mexico State Representative, caught up with Mr. Mapalo at Satellite Coffee in Albuquerque, before Patrick was scheduled to fly back to Zambia. Because Silver City seems to be getting more interested in the Sister Cities program, Richard visited Silver City's City Hall and Western University on August 28-29. During his visit, Richard was able to meet up with several of the students who first came to Albuquerque a few years ago as part of RoboRAVE International.



*On left: Richard Buckler and Honorary Consul of Zambia for New Mexico Patrick Mapalo.*

*On right: Western University students L to R are Agape Foe-Amoaning from Lusaka, Natasha Chapuma from Kasama , and Richard Mubanga from the Copperbelt region of Zambia.*

### Upcoming Events

## GET READY FOR OUR 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST!!!



### What

Enjoy Dancing, Traditional German Food, Special Oktoberfest Brews, German Bands, Huge Fresh Pretzels.

### When

October 11 – 12, 12:00 noon to 10:00 pm each day.

### Where

Rio Bravo Brewing, 1912 2nd St., NW, Albuquerque, NM.

Plenty of parking. Plenty of fun.

Brought to you by Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation and Rio Bravo Brewing.

October 31<sup>st</sup> – Helmstedt Visitors Farewell Gathering

6:00pm at Red Horse Vineyard Bed and Breakfast

2155 Londene Ln SW, Albuquerque, NM 87105

RSVP Nathan Young [\\_helmstedt@albuquerque-sister-cities.org](mailto:_helmstedt@albuquerque-sister-cities.org)

For more information on these and other future events, visit the calendar on our website at:

[www.albuquerque-sister-cities.org](http://www.albuquerque-sister-cities.org)