

February 2021

Greetings!

Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation has many exciting things to share; a new website, Young Professionals Destiny Logan and CJ Slough, an International Tea series, the continuation of Mayor to Mayor contact throughout the pandemic, and more. Enjoying learning more in the newsletter.

We will be staying on a virtual platform until New Mexico is approved for larger in person gatherings. Please continue to stay connected with your sister cities friends locally and abroad! Send pictures with a caption you would like to share in our next newsletter.

ASCF thanks each of you for continuing to support the organization. Our members are very important to us. Please contact me if you have any questions or comments for the organization. I can be reached at president@abqsistercities.org.

Wishing you a bright, warm, and beautiful Spring!

***Kind Regards,
Pamela V. Feather
ASCF President***

ASCF Has New Website!

By Dave Bagley, Membership Chair

Albuquerque Sister Cities has a new website.
See it now at www.ABQSisterCities.org.

After 12 plus years, our old website was showing its age, and the time had come for a fresh look with updated features. So, we asked for bids for a redesign, and LionSky in Albuquerque was contracted to do the work. After many meetings via Zoom, work started in December, and quickly took shape, along with our new logo. Here's our new look.



Our new HOME page is modern and displays more of what our organization is all about: people to people, culture, and economic development with the City of Albuquerque. The new site was designed to be easier to negotiate, primarily with more photos, less text, and has been reorganized so users can quickly move through the various pages to find what they're looking for.

The Membership area has been completely redesigned and will be less time consuming for our membership committee of one. Members may apply or renew yearly (July 1 through June 30) completely online and will receive a receipt immediately after payment. For our members who want to continue to use paper and snail mail, they can continue to print out a Membership form from our website and mail it to us with a check.



New Website continues...

Each sister city now has its own page, and those pages will be changing in the future. Maps, geography, photos, historical information, videos, and even the current weather conditions.

Access to our past Newsletters is easily available for review by year and month.

In the months ahead, we'll be adding new features to the site, like videos of our sister cities, topics of interest, and even recipes from our sister cities for you to try at home.

We hope you'll take some time to explore our new website. Look around. If you think the site should have something that you don't see, let us know! Our old website www.AlbuquerqueSisterCities.org will remain for a while, until users get used to the new site.

Questions or comments?
Please contact us at President@ABQSisterCities.org.

Virtual International Teas Begin with Lanzhou, China and Rehovot, Israel

By Alana McGrattan, Ashgabat Chair



The annual International Tea traditionally held in January of each year is an opportunity to reach out to the ABQ community to share the cultures, traditions and opportunities available in our Sister Cities relationships.

This year we have transitioned to a virtual platform through Facebook and YouTube. Our first Tea on February 21 at 4pm featured Lanzhou, China and Rehovot, Israel.

Stay tuned for more presentations:

March 21: Ashgabat, Turkmenistan and Hualien, Taiwan

April 25: Sasebo, Japan and Guadalajara, Mexico

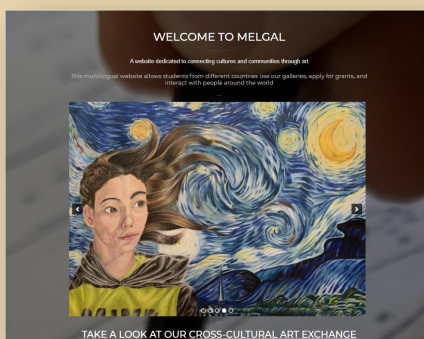


Academy Student Organizes International Art Exchange

By Lin Ye, Lanzhou Chair

Melinda Modisette is a student at Albuquerque Academy, though she'll soon be off to Harvard University for a degree program. Albuquerque Sister Cities recently featured Melinda in one of our Zoom presentations.

During her time at Albuquerque Academy, Melinda organized a group of students to interface with students in our sister city Lanzhou, China and created a Cross Cultural Art Exchange so students in both countries could discuss and exchange works of art. She also created a website to allow the students to create and exchange their artwork. Here's the link to the website: <https://melgal.org/crossculturalartexchange/>.



To learn how Albuquerque and Lanzhou students have created a way to get together through the internet and share their passion for art, and view their Gallery, where the students combined their individual works together <https://melgal.org/crossculturalgallery/>.



Pictured, from left to right, are Sarah Wang, Gabby Nemer, Melinda Modisette, Andrew Spears, Mackenzie Jarrell, and AnaMaria Perez



Pictured, from left to right, are 熊思琳(Leandra), 赵润德(Zhao Runde), 王子晗(William), 沈子煊(Shen Zixuan), 李佳怡(Li Jiayi), and 何一田(He Yitian)

Please meet ASCF's Young Professionals



Destiny Logan Chair

Destiny Logan is a native New Mexican, born and raised in the Four Corners area of the state. Destiny is currently pursuing her MBA at the University of New Mexico and will forever be a Lobo. Destiny loves the community in

Albuquerque and enjoys engaging in a variety of activities. She specifically enjoys being a part of the community conversations and connecting with other young professionals. When she isn't busy with professional obligations, Destiny enjoys her time traveling near and far, practicing her French, and spending time with her friends.

CJ Slough Co-Chair

Christian attended the University of New Mexico for his undergraduate studies and graduate career. In what felt like 6 very short years Christian walked away with two bachelor's degrees in



Sociology and Spanish and a masters degree in Business Administration. His interests in youth, education, and policy led him to join AmeriCorps and serve in his hometown of Albuquerque, NM.

Because of his passion for sustainability, equality, and innovation, Christian has built relationships, partnerships, and a sense of community with a number of people who have greatly widened his perspective on the world. He hopes to continue to grow his understanding of the world to create an environment that embraces our differences and helps our society move forward together.

Outside of work, Christian loves to take on new challenges and build relationships. He is a regular community panelist, the occasional guest lecturer for UNM's business school, and he has led a number of workshops centered around community driven and shared value business models. He also enjoys writing, Spanish TV, traveling with his two kitties and girlfriend, hunting for hidden gems like eateries and pubs, and growing sustainable food (or at least attempting to)!

2019 Music Program in Helmstedt

By Nathan Young, Helmstedt Chair

Between 2016 and 2018, I met with Helmstedt Chair Siegfried Dehning to discuss organizing a joint music program for its youth. It was decided that the two sister cities would organize a youth music program for the summer of 2019. 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. Due to scheduling conflicts in January of 2019, it was decided that students from Albuquerque would only go to Helmstedt.



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Ten Albuquerque students that were 8th and 9th graders from three public schools signed up. Eisenhower Middle school and Albuquerque Youth Symphony Director Sam Nesbit volunteered to be the director. Meetings were held on Skype with 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 sheet music and arranged for the youth to meet and rehearse 3 times. The youth also started communicating online before we left for Germany.

The students traveled with director Sam Nesbit, chaperone and parent Katheryn Probasco and me from July 9th to July 20th. Along with visiting Helmstedt, the group also toured parts of Berlin, Potsdam, Konigsutter, Hannover, and Helmstedt's Sister city Haldensleben. In Haldensleben the group visited their deputy Mayor and was provided a private city tour. They also visited the gardens of Hundisburg castle and attended a classical trumpet performance.



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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 most days with students from Helmstedt and finally performed on July 18th in Helmstedt's former university building Juleum completed 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. Helmstedt Partner Cities and Helmstedt town hall organized and promoted the free event. Two local newspapers published articles detailing the success of the performance and on the sister cities relationship between Albuquerque and Helmstedt.



It did take a lot of time planning but it was well worth it. I still received positive feedback from the students and parents and many of the students are still in contact with each other. Helmstedt Chair for Albuquerque Siegfried Dehning stepped down from the Helmstedt board in January of 2021. We want to thank him for working with Albuquerque Sister Cities over the last five years. We wish him the best and look forward to working with his successor Margrit Niemann. We hope to coordinate another youth music exchange with Helmstedt when it is safe to travel.

Young Artists and Authors Showcase is Open!

The Annual Young Artists and Authors Showcase is open for submissions! 2021's theme is "United in Hope". All submissions are due by May 1, 2021, 11:59 PM EST.

For decades, Sister Cities International has leveraged the power that art has to transform societies and transcend cultural boundaries through the Young Artists

and Authors Showcase, or YAAS. The Showcase has given youth worldwide the opportunity to express their vision for a more unified, peaceful world through original art and literature.

Sister Cities International aims to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation – one individual, one community at a time. Indeed, the younger generation is capable of dreaming of a human existence that is even more dynamic, more advanced, and more resilient than ever before.

For more information on eligibility requirements and content guidelines, please visit the YAAS webpage at <https://sistercities.org/>



Submission Deadline:

May 1, 2021

MORNING OF FERTILITY
Haruto Tsuda, Osaka, Japan
2020 YAAS Winner



SisterCities
INTERNATIONAL
Connect globally. Thrive locally.

Young Artists and Authors Showcase

2021 THEME - UNITED IN HOPE

The deadline to submit entries is May 1, 2021

- Apply and see guidelines directly on our website at www.sistercities.org/YAAS
- The Young Artists and Authors Showcase (YAAS) is an annual contest that **encourages youth worldwide to express the mission of Sister Cities International** through original artwork, literature, photography, and music for both original and reinterpreted pieces.
- Submissions are centered around an annual theme and judged based on **originality, composition, and theme interpretation.**
- Selected Grand Prize Winners in each category (art, articles, poetry, photography, original music, and reinterpreted music) **win a \$1000 prize.** 2nd place winners will receive \$250 and 3rd place winners will receive \$100.

How to Enter

Students and member cities should [visit our website](http://www.sistercities.org/) to complete the entry form and submit their art, literature, photography, and music to Sister Cities International by uploading it along with the entry form.

Guidelines

Fees

- There is **NO fee** to submit an entry to YAAS.

Eligibility

All students must be between 13 and 18 years of age.

Art

- One [1] piece of art work per student can be submitted with a photograph via application
- Only two-dimensional (2D) unframed work will be accepted
- Students are encouraged to post the photo to Instagram and include the following: Tag @SisterCitiesInt Use #YAAS2021 Include city, state, and country of the student
- One [1] Grand Prize winner each and 2nd and 3rd place prizes

Literature

- Article submissions are not to exceed 500 words; Poetry submissions are not to exceed 200 words.
- Submissions must be written in English
- One [1] article entry OR one [1] poem entry per student can be submitted.
- All literature submissions must be submitted by upload along with the entry form
- One [1] Grand Prize winner each and 2nd and 3rd place prizes

Photography

- One [1] photograph per student can be submitted
- Submissions must be made by uploading along with the entry form
- Students are encouraged to post the photo to Instagram and include the following: Tag @SisterCitiesInt Use #YAAS2021 Include city, state, and country of the student
- One [1] Grand Prize winner each and 2nd and 3rd place prizes

Music

- Music pieces must be submitted in MP3 or WAV format by uploading the file along with the entry form
- Only audio submissions will be accepted; no videos.
- Original pieces must be original
- Reinterpretations of existing pieces must have credit given to the original artist.
- One [1] Grand Prize winner each and 2nd and 3rd place prizes

More Info



Email youth@sistercities.org



visit the webpage at sistercities.org/YAAS



Sister Cities International



@SisterCitiesInt



@SisterCitiesInt

YuLin Shen, Hualien Chair, shared a greeting card, below, signed by Hualien Mayor Mr. ChiaHsien Wei.



Ashgabat to celebrate 140th Anniversary

By Alana McGrattan, Ashgabat Chair

Ashgabat will be celebrating its 140th anniversary on May 25th. We have been invited to participate by the US Embassy in the events that are being planned. Stay tuned for further information as it is received.

Below is an email from the U.S. Ambassador in Ashgabat, dated Feb. 2:

To: Albuquerque Sister Cities
Attn: Mellie Myer and Alana McGrattan

Dear Mellie and Alana,

I received your lovely greeting card on behalf of the Albuquerque Sisters City Organization. Thank you for thinking of us at Embassy Ashgabat. We have passed along one of your cards to the Mayor of Ashgabat as well. Jackie Moore, our Public Diplomacy Officer told me that Mellie did the beautiful art work—well done!

The COVID19 pandemic has had an impact on many of our outreach initiatives, including Sister Cities. We would like nothing more than to energize the Sister City relationship with Ashgabat in the future. Our dedicated team will be looking for opportunities to keep this on the agenda.

Mellie, Jackie mentioned that your late husband, Bill Myer, was the Country Director of the Peace Corps in Turkmenistan. He left quite a legacy. On countless occasions, I have met local Turkmen who were eager to tell me of the Peace Corps Volunteer who changed their life. It is uncanny how often it happens. I just want you to know that his good work carried forward and continues.

I hope we can meet with you and your colleagues in the coming year. Feel free to touch base with us at anytime.

Best wishes,
Ambassador Matt Klimow

From Lanzhou Chair Lin Ye:

Annual greeting letter between the sister city mayors of Lanzhou and Albuquerque have been exchanged since 2017 after a celebration of 20 years sister city partnership. Here we have Mayor Zhang's Happy New Year letter and Mayor Keller's Happy Chinese New Year letter.

