



# ALBUQUERQUE

## Sister Cities Foundation

June 2021



*Greetings,*

*Summer is here!*

*It was great seeing members who were able to attend the ASCF Annual Meeting at Rio Bravo Brewing Company's Biergarten in person. Thank you to the members who attended by zoom. A big thank you to Rio Bravo Brewing Company! If you did not have the opportunity to see the wonderful presentation at the ASCF Annual Meeting, a zoom meeting invite will be sent out to our members. It will be held July 22 at 5:45pm. Alberto Solis, Chair of Albuquerque Spain and Andrew Bernard, Guest Speaker will share their presentation: Fostering Sustainability Through Cultural Exchange; A Dialogue on Acequias, Urban Planning, and Environment Between Mendoza, Argentina and Albuquerque, New Mexico.*

*This is a time to connect with families and friends. Please continue to take time to stay connected with your Sister Cities friends.*

*I want to thank each of you for your membership and continued support of ASCF. We have come through a rather unusual experience in 2020 and are still experiencing a delay in traveling to many of our Sister Cities. The remainder of 2021 ASCF will have two live events for their members; September, ABQ BioPark and November. Both events details will be sent to the members by email.*

*Please contact me if you have any questions or comments for ASCF. I can be reached at [president@abqsistercities.org](mailto:president@abqsistercities.org).*

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



### **Annual ASCF Executive Officer Election Was by Email This Year**

The following officers were re-elected for one year terms:  
2nd Vice President - Alana McGrattan  
3rd Vice President - Dave Bagley  
Secretary - Sybil Keyser  
Treasurer - Richard Buckler



## ASCF Ashgabat Committee Participates in 140th Anniversary Celebration

*By Alana McGrattan*

The Ashgabat Committee has created a birthday treat and shared it with the Ministry of culture through the US Embassy for the 140 Anniversary of the founding of the city. The anniversary celebration took place May 25.

Hannah Stephens from the New Mexico School of Music performed a song in Turkmen that was written especially to celebrate the relationship between the two sister cities. ASCF Ashgabat Committee members and friends were filmed at the Balloon Museum sending greetings to commemorate the anniversary, followed by a Zuni Dance group at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. A special proclamation from Mayor Keller declaring May 25th **Ashgabat Sister City Day** was hand carried to Ashgabat for the ceremonies.

*Check out the Happy Birthday Ashgabat video on YouTube:*

[https://youtu.be/x4\\_LHYuCOJA](https://youtu.be/x4_LHYuCOJA)



*Ambassador of the United States of America*

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

May 28, 2021

Alana McGrattan  
Chair  
Ashgabat Sister Cities Foundation  
3501 Corrales Road  
Corrales, NM 87048

Dear Alana:

Thank you and the Ashgabat Sister Cities Foundation for playing such an important role in the celebrations of Ashgabat's 140th anniversary. Your congratulatory messages, the Ashgabat song, and the beautiful Zuni dance were very well received here in Turkmenistan. All of your contributions received wide coverage in the Turkmen media.

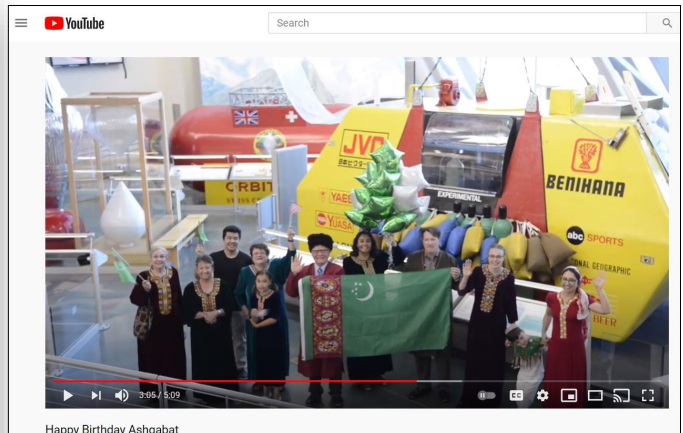
My Embassy colleagues and I heard many words of appreciation for your work from our counterparts in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Culture, and I would like to convey their sincere gratitude to all of you in this letter. The Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan personally thanked me for the rich contributions Albuquerque made to the 140th celebrations.

I would especially like to thank you for providing materials for the Albuquerque - Ashgabat Sister City Round Table on very short notice. Those contributions were received with great enthusiasm. I would also like to thank Oguljan Hallyeva-Young for helping with the song recording, Ungelbah Davila for helping with the dancers, and Randy Trask for working with the mayor's office.

Your volunteer work for the Ashgabat Sister Cities Foundation not only promotes the Albuquerque - Ashgabat sister city relationship, but also greatly contributes to strengthening the relations between the United States and Turkmenistan. I hope I will have a chance to meet you in person in Ashgabat.

Sincerely,

  
Matthew S. Klimow  
United States Ambassador





## Scenes from ASCF Annual Meeting

On June 9 ASCF had an in-person annual event at Rio Bravo Biergarten. Members could attend either in person or by Zoom. Free appetizers and a beverage ticket were provided to members and their guests.





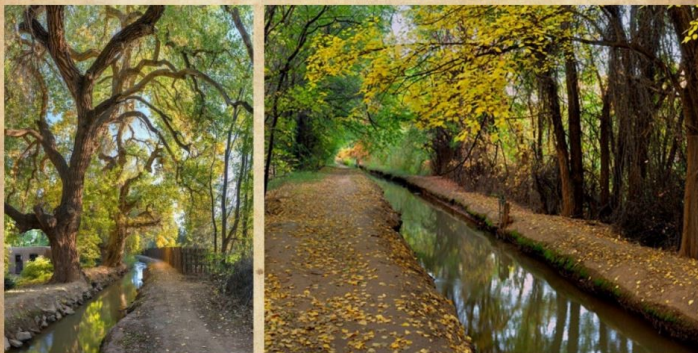
# Fostering Sustainability Through Cultural Exchange

*A Dialogue on Acequias, Urban Planning, and Environment Between Mendoza, Argentina and Albuquerque, New Mexico*

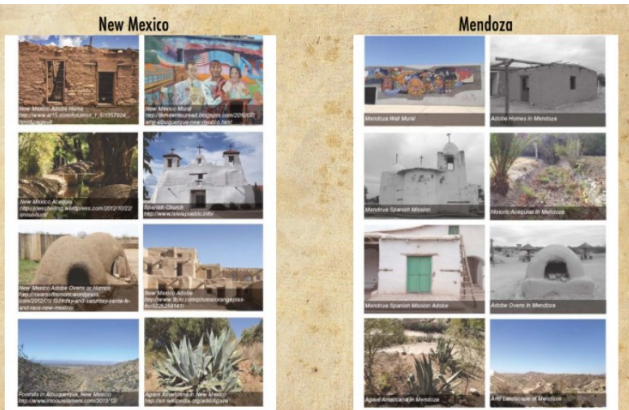
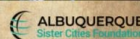


## Albuquerque and Mendoza Share Acequia Heritage

Albert Solis, Albuquerque, Spain ASCF Chair, introduced Andrew Bernard, the ASCF annual meeting guest speaker, who presented a fascinating look into the Spanish, Indigenous and acequia heritage that is shared by Albuquerque, NM and Mendoza, Argentina. Andrew suggested several areas where the two communities could collaborate and exchange ideas.



Follow the Acequias - Integrated Systems



### Opportunities for Collaboration

- Environmental and Sustainability themes, especially in reference to water and the urban environment in planning for climate change. Arid environments are unique. What works in one place is applicable in the other.
- Water management and flood control (and maintenance). Both have similar challenges, but address them in different ways.
- Acequias as Heritage Infrastructure - preservation, cultural, and environmental tourism. Common link between NM, Spain, and Argentina.
- Scientific exchange of ideas - Highly-regarded research institutes studying many important arid-environment challenges. Excellent opportunities for local universities and agencies to collaborate on international research.
- Urban design - planning for future growth in the West. Need more "dense" models. ABQ can learn from a walkable Mendoza.

Comparative Laboratories - Learning Opportunities





## Japan Television Program Features New Mexico Shirt

Davis Begay, Sasebo Sister Cities Committee member and Honorary Consul General of Japan, reported the following:

Recently on Japan's NHK's drama program, **Welcome Back Mone**, the main character wore a shirt with a logo and words reference to Albuquerque. This drama is broadcast nation-wide in Japan. The shirt reads NEW MEXICO above the logo and Physical Albuquerque below.



## International Tea Zoom Series was a Success

By Alana McGrattan, Social Chair

We have completed five International teas hosted by our lovely social media expert Ungelbah Davila-Shivers. **Thank you to Ungelbah and the presenters!**

February: Rehovot and Lanzhou

March: Ashgabat and Hualien you!!

April: Guadalajara and Sasebo

May: Chihuahua and Helmstedt

June: Lusaka and Albuquerque



## 2021 ASCF Board Meetings

Board meetings are the third Thursday of every odd month. The remaining meetings for this year are:

September 16

November 18.

**Be sure to check out [www.abqsistercities.org](http://www.abqsistercities.org)!**



