

ALBUQUERQUE SISTER CITIES FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



July 2020



Mayor Keller displays handmade mask and soap from our Taiwan Sister City, Hualien

ASCF Zoom Annual Meeting Highlights Hualien, Taiwan

President Pam Feather opened the first ever (and hopefully last) Zoom ASCF Annual Meeting June 25, and with Hualien Chair Yu-Lin Shen, took those watching on a virtual visit to our Taiwan sister city.

Dr. Shen gave an overview of history, geography and scenic attractions and reviewed the sister city Relationship. He also acknowledged Dr. David His for his work as the previous Hualien Chair.

Pre-recorded remarks by Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller and Hualien Mayor Wei Chia-hsien were shared and Randy Trask, NM Trade Alliance, discussed the role of the city's Economic Development Office and the impact of pandemic uncertainties on international trade. He said that Sister Cities continues to have an important role is cultivated positive attitudes and promoting citizen diplomacy.



REIMAGINING CITIZEN DIPLOMACY

New Connections in a Virtual World

JULY 8-9

**Sister Cities International
2020 Annual Conference**

Register Now, It's Free! SCI Annual Conference

Register now for the Sister Cities International annual conference! The theme this year is ***Reimagining Citizen Diplomacy: New Connections in a Virtual World.***

Richard Bucker said registration is free but when you register you will have to identify that you are a member of Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation. He said the conference will be live-streamed on the SCI website from 11 am to 5 pm Wednesday and Thursday, July 8 and 9.

Performers and Speakers:

Kinan Azmeh – Clarinet player and composer of contemporary music.

Dionne Warwick – Singer, actress and former United Nations Global Ambassador for the Food and Agriculture Organization and United States Ambassador of Health.

Ron Nirenberg – Mayor of San Antonio; Chairman of SCI

Leroy R. Allala – President and CEO of SCI

Carol Robertson Lopez- Vice Chair (from Santa Fe NM), SCI

[Register here](#)

Mayor Keller Sends Support Letters to Sister Cities

ASCF prepared letters for Mayor Keller to send to all mayors of Albuquerque's Sister Cities, offering support and good wishes during this international public health crisis.

Letters to mayors of Hualien and Lanzhou were in response to earlier letters sent by those mayors.

The Honorable Mtra. Ma. Eugenia Campos Galván
Presidenta Municipal de Chihuahua
Chihuahua, Chihuahua

Dear Mayor Campos,

On behalf of the City of Albuquerque, I am writing to express my support for our sister city, Chihuahua, and our sympathy for the many lives that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are concerned about the citizens, volunteers and government officials whom we have met over the years as part of our sister city partnership, and we want you to know that our thoughts are with you all.

On March 17, 2020, the City of Albuquerque declared a State of Emergency to aid us in containing this extraordinary public health crisis. We have put into place a variety of measures to protect public safety and are carefully monitoring the evolving situation as we enter what will likely be our peak period in New Mexico during the next few weeks.

While the world struggles with this pandemic we are reminded that the spirit of international friendship and cooperation that Sister Cities International has always espoused and represented, has now become an important tool in fighting a common foe. And while we face uncertain and troubling times, we fondly remember the personal ties that we have developed over the years with the people of Chihuahua

Please know that you will be in our thoughts and in our plans for the future when we emerge from this difficult time.

Sincerely,
Timothy M. Keller

Here is a sample of the letters - this one sent to the mayor of Chihuahua.

Building Bridges Zoom Lecture Project Continues



Rechovot student participating in the Water Resources Action Project

April 27 – Rechovot , Israel

Malcolm and Leora Siegel, Co-chairs for the Albuquerque-Rechovot Sister City Project, described some of the activities proposed for cultural and educational exchanges between the 2 cities. They were joined by Amir Yechieli, an Israeli educator and water harvesting engineer for the Water Resources Action Project, who described recent activities at the schools in Rechovot and nearby Lod, which will participate in the Sister City exchanges.

May 29th - 10:00am-11:00am - Alburquerque, Spain

Alberto Solis, Chair of Alburquerque, Spain Committee, and Pablo Cordovilla (Alburquerque, Spain), discussed the profile of Alburquerque including its citizens/ residents, culture, local government, and economy. They also discussed how the Alburquerque community at large has come together to move forward thru the Covid-19 pandemic.



President's Greeting

Hello Everyone,

I hope everyone is enjoying their New Mexico Summer staying safe and healthy.

Our world, country, and community are continuing to experience the impact of COVID-19. We are continuing to learn different ways to stay connected with our family and friends. ASCF has engaged in approaches to reinforce the bridges between Albuquerque and its Sister City through WhatsApp, Facebook, Messenger, Zoom, emails, and letters. We are finding our Sister Cities are experiencing very similar issues. We are all concerned for the welfare of community residents and first responders.

We continue to encourage our members who have developed Sister Cities friendships over the years to reach out to them. Let's reinforce Sister Cities International's values and mission to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation – one individual, one community at a time.

ASCF Annual meeting was a great example of connecting virtually with Hualien, Taiwan and Albuquerque, New Mexico. If you missed the meeting, please watch the replay.

We are continuing ASCF's "Building Bridges" series. We have presented Rehovot, Israel and Albuquerque, Spain. July will be a special "Building Bridges" with a presentation honoring the 30th Anniversary between Ashgabat, Turkmenistan and Albuquerque, New Mexico. Look for a Zoom meeting invite soon.

Kind Regards,
Pamela V. Feather
ASCF President
president@albuquerque-sister-cities.org



YouTube

From Membership Chair Dave Bagley:

Albuquerque Sister Cities now has a YouTube channel. With our increasing use of the internet to communicate with our members and our sister cities, we wanted to find an easier way for everyone to view recorded meetings, training materials and other videos. Especially our Building Bridges series, which highlights each of our sister cities.

To get to our channel - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI45OJcFzuRB9I7ucy9AsDg/> After it's been alive for 30 days, and we have 100 subscribers, we'll be eligible for our own name, instead of the confusing numbers and letters shown above.

The first entry on our channel is Alberto Solis's Zoom Training session that he presented on June 26.

You can select this video from the list (currently just one entry) from the channel URL above, or here's the shortcut - <https://youtu.be/eYK4SFUnulk>

More entries will be coming, as quickly as we can make them available for our members. Please make sure you Subscribe.

TEENIORS: Tech Savvy Young Adults Coach Seniors

ASCF President Pam Feather wants to make ASCF members aware of a resource that they can call upon when having challenges with technology, especially during this time of technology-dependent social distancing.

"I have worked with this organization, Teeniors, and think highly of the service they are providing," Pam said.

Teeniors are tech-savvy teens and young adults who help older adults learn technology through one-on-one-personalized coaching (virtual video/calls, or in-person under covid-19 guidelines).



The goal is to empower older adults to connect with their loved ones and engage with the world through technology, while providing paid meaningful jobs for youth.

Teeniors provides coaching 7 days a week and has personally helped nearly 3,000 seniors in New Mexico alone, according to Trish Lopez, Teeniors Coordinator, and consistently earns rave reviews.