



April 2022

## 2022 ASCF Calendar of Events

**May 6** **Rehovot** celebrates National Gardens Day at the Albuquerque Biopark from 10 am to 2 pm with a presentation on water harvesting and water sampling by Albuquerque elementary students. Algodones Elementary School has joined the Albuquerque-Rehovot school exchange project. The trio of schools in Log, Rehovot and Algodones will include Jewish, Palestinian and Native American Students participating in cross-cultural science education activities.

**May 19** ASCF Board Meeting

**June 8** **Hualien** celebrates World Oceans Day at the Albuquerque Biopark from 10 am to 2pm featuring presentations by Albuquerque high school students and high school students from Hualien. The participating school in Albuquerque is Career Enrichment Center (the Chinese language program), and in Hualien it is the National Hualien Senior High School.

**June 12** Albuquerque Sister Cities annual meeting featuring our new Friendship City **Antigua/ Barbuda** at the African American Performing Arts Center from 2 - 4 pm.

**June 21** **Lusaka** celebrates World Giraffe day at the Albuquerque Biopark/Zoo from 10 am to 2 pm with live entertainment.

**July 21** ASCF Board Meeting

**August 18** **Sasebo** celebrates Obon Festival at the Albuquerque BioPark/Botanic Garden 7-9 pm.

**Sept 15** ASCF Board Meeting

**Nov 17** ASCF Board Meeting

## Scenes from February 26 tea ceremony with the ASCF Sasebo Committee at the Albuquerque BioPark

Photos by Alison Freese



### Tea Ceremony Marks 55 Year Relationship

*By Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman  
Sasebo Chair*

As a part of the 55th sister cities anniversary with Sasebo, on Saturday, February 26th, we pre-recorded the traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony held at the ABQ Bio Park and the Albuquerque Flamenco Dance group's performance at the Sasebo Japanese Garden.

We are working with Sasebo to determine a time/day to have a live streamed on Facebook to share each city's event to continue celebrating our sister cities anniversary.



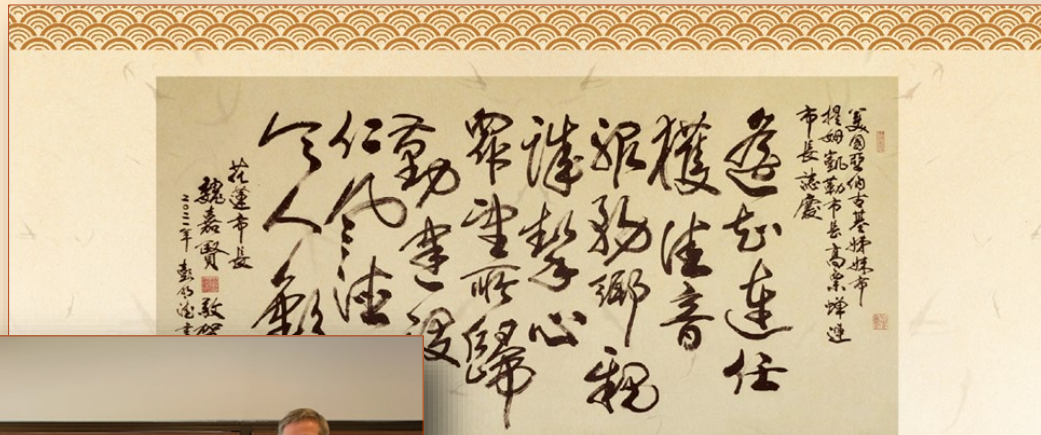


# Hualien Mayor Congratulates Mayor Keller with Calligraphy

By Yu-Lin Shen, Hualien Chair

Hualien Mayor Chia-Hsien Wei arranged a Chinese calligraphic work as a gift for Albuquerque Mayor Timothy Keller, to congratulate him on his re-election late last year.

This art piece with a poem was created by a well known calligrapher in Hualien, Mr. Ming Te Peng. The art piece was presented to Mayor Keller on February 28, 2022 (see photo). The descriptions of the calligraphy and introduction of the artist, in Chinese and English, are also shown in the image further below.



提姆·凱勒市長高票蟬聯市長誌慶

遙知連任獲佳音  
服務鄉親誠摯心  
眾望所歸勤建設  
仁風德政令人欽

花蓮市市長魏嘉賢 敬賀  
2021年12月彭明德 書寫

Congratulations to Mr. Timothy Keller on your re-election as Mayor of Albuquerque. You have shown a firm commitment to people's welfare and made their lives comfortable by providing the infrastructure they need. I wish you the very best for your subsequent tenure.

Mayor of Hualien

Calligraphy by Mr. Peng Ming Te

## 書法大師 彭明德先生

### 個人簡介

1945年生於花蓮，曾任花蓮縣議員、壽豐鄉長、花蓮粥會會長、花蓮縣客屬會理事長等職。彭明德先生從小受家庭薰陶，耳濡目染，奠定對丹青、雕刻、盆景、玩石之愛好，收藏名家作品亦極為豐富。平日熱心公益於社團活動，才德出眾有口皆碑。其精湛的書法藝術作品，常受邀至世界各地展出，是難得一見的書法大師。

### Artist biography

Ming Te Peng, a well-known calligrapher, was born in Hualien, Taiwan in 1945. The characteristic of Peng roots back to his family, which was greatly influenced and inspired by multiple forms of art, like Danqing, sculpture, bonsai, and stone collection. He is also a collector of various antiques and art forms.

His work has been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions in galleries and museums worldwide.

Mr. Peng is also appreciated for his enthusiasm, public spirit, and contributions to civil services; He was a council member of Hualien county, mayor of Shoufeng township, president of the Hualien Zhou club, and chairman of the Hualien Hakka association.

## Hualien Committee Launches Virtual Cultural Exchange Project

Hualien Committee launched a virtual cultural exchange project, led by Co-chair Rubing Hsu. The objective is to provide a safe video-based social media platform for high-school students in both cities.

Students share their own cultures, learn how to make short video presentation, and apply their language skills. The participating school in Albuquerque is Career Enrichment Center (the Chinese language program), and in Hualien it is the National Hualien Senior High School.

Following up the previous video-based activities, students from Albuquerque and Hualien met in real time via Google Meet on March 1. Students introduced their respective city's highlights and exchanged questions.



## Meet Melinda!

Melinda Modisette, ASCF Young Professional Chair, loves the color neon yellow, smiling, and adventures.

She the creator of the Cross-Cultural Art Exchange (See page 5 and 6). She founded the ABQ Fight COVID-19 initiative which provided 8,000+ free masks to the New Mexican community and Navajo Nation.

She was the captain of her high school's Varsity Boys Wrestling Team and helped pioneer the first Women's Wrestling State Championship in New Mexico. She is a recipient of 2021 Presidential Scholar, 2021 Coca-Cola Scholar, 2020 Semper Fidelis All-American Female of the Year, 2021 Prudential Spirit of Community State Honoree, and 2021 Congressional Art Competition Winner for the 1st Congressional District in New Mexico.

Melinda is currently attending Harvard University and planning to major in either Electrical or Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Studio Painting. After Business graduate school, she plans to become an entrepreneur.





# The Cross-Cultural Art Exchange!

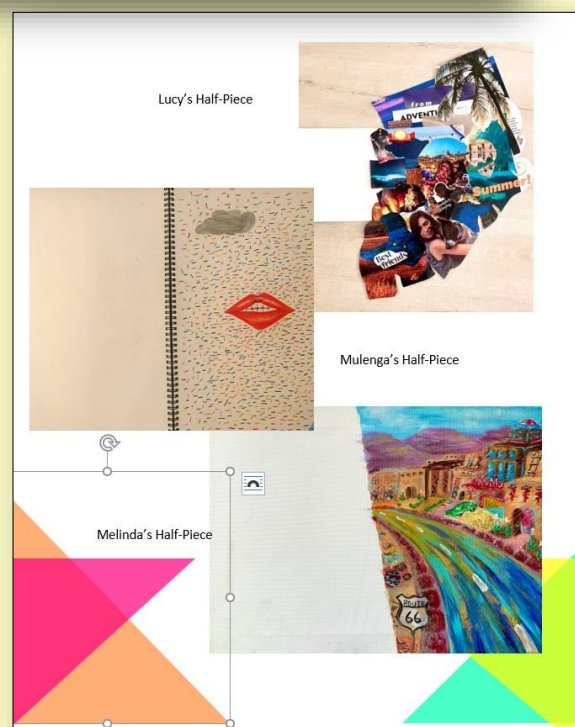
By Melinda Modisette

**About:** The Cross-Cultural Art Exchange is a project where art students from around the world collaborate to create mixed-culture art.

**Participants:** The 2021-2022 Exchange is currently between students from Albuquerque and Silver City, New Mexico; San Diego, California; Seattle, Washington; Winnipeg, Canada; and Lusaka, Zambia!



**How it works:** Students communicate every two weeks throughout the year to talk about subjects ranging from current events to cultural differences.



## The Cross-Cultural Art Exchange Continued...

We will be mailing the pieces in the next few weeks and each of us will complete an artwork from another culture!

For more information about the Cross-Cultural Art Exchange, visit:

<https://melgal.org/cross-cultural-art-exchange/>

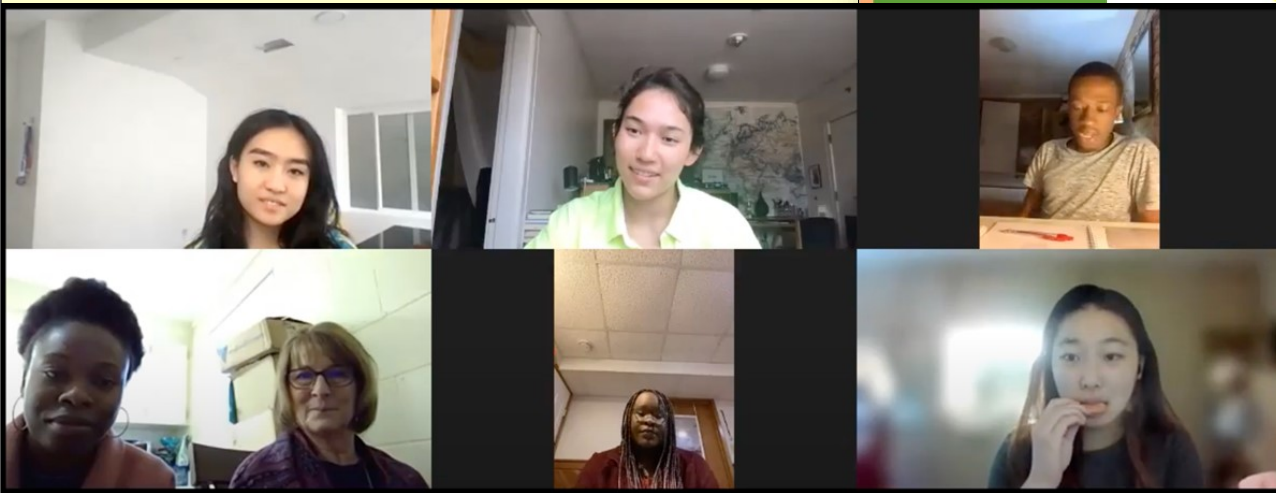
Image Sources:

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Carolyn's Half-Piece

Joy's Half-Piece

Nalisa's Half-Piece

## Sister Cities and US Embassy Reps Discuss US/Zambia Projects

By Richard Buckler

Spear-headed by Sister Cities International's Africa Regional Coordinator Lorna Johnson and SCI Global Envoy Mary Palko, representatives from Los Angeles and Albuquerque/Clovis, New Mexico, met on-line February 3 with US Embassy Public and Cultural Affairs officers (Mr. Philip Dimon and Ms. Anamaria Karrels).

Discussion centered on how to strengthen and grow sister city projects between the U.S. and Zambia.

In attendance for New Mexico were Pam Feather (ASCF president), Dr. Harold Bailey (ASCF Lusaka-Albuquerque Chair), Richard Buckler (SCI NM State Representative), Claire Burroughs (Clovis Assistant City Manager), and Patrick Mapalo (NM Honorary Consul for Zambia). Dr. Earnestine Robertson (President Lusaka-Los Angeles





# Amir Yechieli, Israeli 'Rain Man' to Present at SLFCU May 4

*By Malcolm Siegel, Rehovot Chair*

Join us at 6PM on May 4 at the Sandia Laboratories Credit Union SLFCU (3707 Juan Tabo Blvd. NE) for a presentation on rainwater harvesting by Israeli engineer, microbiologist and educator, Amir Yechieli.

Mr. Yechieli is renowned for designing, constructing, and managing rainwater harvesting and gray water recycling systems in 160 schools around Israel, in the US, Africa, and Latin America. The projects have resulted in improved savings for each school, as well as demonstrating for the students a sustainable use of resources, allowing for an in-depth exploration of fundamental and ethical questions regarding the relationship of humans to their surroundings. The practical management of the system permits students to assess the efficiency of the model and calculate the amount of water and funds the system has saved their school.

Amir is currently in the United States to supervise installation of his rainwater harvesting systems at 5 locations on the Navajo Reservation. The project is a joint venture of the non-profit organizations Water Resources Action Project and the Forgotten People and is funded by the World Emergency Relief, Native American Emergency Relief.

Under the guidance of Amir and ASCF Rehovot Chairs, Malcolm and Leora Siegel, students from the Sarid School in Rehovot, Israel will be working with students at the Algodones Elementary School to learn about water quality, rainwater harvesting and water conservation. On May 3, Amir will be working with students at the Algodones School with activities related to water harvesting and conservation.

The presentation at the SLFCU will be followed by a no-host dinner for ASCF Chairs and their guests at a local restaurant. Please RSVP to Leora Siegel (leora50@comcast.net) by April 30.

On May 6, the ASCF Rehovot Committee will collaborate with Amir to host activities related to water resources at the ABQ BioPark in celebration of National Public Gardens Day. We need volunteers to help staff our booth and help with activities from 9AM to 3 PM.

**Please contact Malcolm Siegel**  
**(msiegel51@yahoo.com) to**  
**volunteer.**

**Join us for the**  
**"USA-China Sister Cities Dialogue:**  
**Building Resilient Partnerships"**  
**on April 27, 2022 at 6 PM MT**

The first-ever virtual USA-China Dialogue, sponsored by Sister Cities International (SCI) and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), will occur on April 27 in the USA and April 28 in China. Important topics on Sports Diplomacy, Climate Change, and Digital Economy will be discussed by both sides.



April 27 at 8 pm (USA EST) / April 28 at 8 am (China Beijing Time)

JOIN GOVERNORS, MAYORS, AND FRIENDS FROM  
USA AND CHINA IN A SPECIAL VIRTUAL PROGRAM

## **USA-CHINA SISTER CITIES DIALOGUE:** **Building Resilient Partnerships**

Organizers: Sister Cities International (SCI)

The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC)

Topics: Sports Diplomacy and Sub-national Cooperation, Climate Change  
and Green Development, Digital Economy and Smart Cities



## Chinese Consulate Delegation Meets with ABQ Economic Development Department

*By Celeste Nunez, Guadalajara Chair*

*Director, International Business Resources, NM Trade Alliance*

The Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation was proud to facilitate the City of Albuquerque receive a delegation from the Chinese Consulate in Los Angeles. The delegation was led by Vice Consul General Chunlin Li and included Consul Manjiang Fan, Consul Xuejing Sun, and Consul Junxie Lu.



The delegation met with the City of Albuquerque Economic Development Department to build up working relationships and explore the exchange and cooperation between New Mexico and China.

The delegation from the Chinese Consulate was delighted to hear about Albuquerque's long standing and successful Sister City relationship with the City of Lanzhou in the Gansu Province.



## Changes Are Coming to our Website

*By Dave Bagley, Membership Chair*

Albuquerque Sister Cities new website [www.ABQSisterCities.org](http://www.ABQSisterCities.org) has been in a "beta-test" phase since February 2021, and it will become our permanent home, prior to June.

A major improvement is the way we will process membership records. Each member's record will now be under control of that member, much like the way we access websites all over the internet. We'll be sending out detailed instructions prior to June 1 to every paying member. This is necessary, since each member will have to establish your own record, each with a user id and a password.

The website is currently active, and you're encouraged to take a look at it and get familiar with our new layout.

**Keep up to date!**  
**Check out our website at**  
**[www.abqsistercities.org](http://www.abqsistercities.org)**





# Welcome Celeste Nunez, New ASCF Guadalajara Chair!

Celeste Nuñez is the Director of International Business Resources for the New Mexico Trade Alliance, a nonprofit economic development organization in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She connects companies from all over New Mexico with local, state, federal, and international export assistance resources to help them gain and grow international sales. Notably, Celeste manages the SBA-funded New Mexico State Trade Expansion Program Grant under the New Mexico Trade Alliance's contract with the State of New Mexico.

Celeste is a 2020 U.S. Global Leadership Coalition's (USGLC) Next Gen Global Leader and a member of the USGLC New Mexico Advisory

Board. In 2019, Celeste served as the organizer

for the Albuquerque – Chihuahua Sister City Bilateral Commission, an Agreement with the objective of developing programs of mutual benefit in the areas of economic development, tourism and cultural exchange, public safety, and education. Additionally, Celeste contracts with local governments on other business development projects through her own consulting company.

Celeste graduated summa cum laude with a BBA from the University of New Mexico's Anderson School of Management focusing on International Management and Marketing.



## Thank You Ernesto Garcia for your Service to ASCF!

ASCF thanks Ernesto Garcia for his dedicated service as our Guadalajara Chair for the past several years.

During his tenure as Chair, he helped coordinate ASCF's involvement in the Sister Cities International's 2018 All Mexico-US Sister Cities Mayors' Summit held in Guadalajara.

Join us in wishing him all the best in his future endeavors.

***Please join Sister Cities International global conversation:  
"What is Next for North America?"***



Please join the Sister Cities International **"What is Next for North America?"** global conversation on April 27, 2022, at 11 AM ET/9 AM MT.

This conversation will focus on the impact of industry, trade, and governance on the trilateral relationship between Mexico, the United States, and Canada.

Our panel of global experts will discuss the future of the relationships between these three countries as they navigate the post-pandemic world.