



ALBUQUERQUE Sister Cities Foundation



August 2023

Congratulations Albuquerque and Kharkiv Sister Cities Partnership!!

August 27– *Ukraine independence 2p-4:30p Congregation Albert*

September 24- *Aki Matsuri (Japan Festival)*

September 21- *ASCF Board Meeting*

October- *Lanzhou (China) delegation at ABQ Balloon Fiesta*

October 13-15– *STEMarts Lab exchange with Guadalajara at Balloon Fiesta Museum*

October 24– *Turkmen Days performers @Kiva free to public at 7p*

November 16- *ASCF Board Meeting*

November 24-December 2nd- *Mayor delegation in Sasebo open for members*

December date TBD- *ASCF WinterFest*

January 20, 2024– *International Tea*

February 2024– *STEM arts exchange with Albuquerque at GDLuz in Guadalajara*

March 22nd– April 2nd 2024- *Mayors delegation to Hualien open to members.*

March 21, 2024– *ASCF Board Meeting*



Mayor Tim Keller, Albuquerque, NM



Mayor Ihor Terekhov, Kharkiv Ukraine

SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL HOSTS AFRICA SUMMIT

By Richard Buckler

Sister Cities International (SCI) held its first ever US Africa Summit in Cape Town, South Africa, on February 20-24, 2023. This Summit followed U.S. President Biden's recent Africa Summit in Washington D.C. and served as a platform to continue and expand upon the dialogue initiated at the D.C. meetings. Throughout the week, SCI welcomed hundreds of citizen diplomats from both the United States and the entire African continent. The Summit provided a week-long series of engagements and activities that supported best practice learning, training for establishing Sister City partnerships, networking, developing new business opportunities, and creating tourism opportunities for both the City of Cape Town and the entire African Continent.

SCI also announced at the Cape Town Summit a new 500 in 5 Initiative, with the goal of creating 500 new partnerships between Africa and the United States in five years' time. Under this initiative, Sister Cities International aims to offer an increased number of opportunities for African cultural appreciation and understanding in the U.S., which will also increase engagement between the U.S. and Africa.

In attendance at the Summit was a strong delegation from Zambia, which included: His Majesty King Munokalya Mupotola IV Siloka III Mukuni (Lion King of Victoria Falls and a visitor to New Mexico in 2011), Her Worship Constance Muleabai (Mayor of Livingstone, Santa Fe's Sister City), Her Worship Theresa Kolala (Mayor of Kasama, Clovis' Sister City), and Grace Kasengele Foh-Amoaning (Lusaka coordinator for ASCF cultural/educational outreaches).

Richard Buckler, the SCI New Mexico State Representative and Country Representative for Zambia, also attended the Summit, meeting with the Zambian delegation, as well as visit Lusaka, Zambia (Albuquerque's Sister City) both before and after the Summit.

While in Lusaka, Richard participated with Los Angeles (L.A.) in their presentation to Her Worship Chilando Chitangala—Mayor of Lusaka—of \$10,000, to help expand clean water capability at the Chaisa Compound in Lusaka. (L.A. has the only other SCI Zambian sister city relationship outside of New Mexico).



Richard receiving special gift from Her Worship Mayor Chitangala of Lusaka.



Richard with Mayor of Capetown Geordin Hill-Lewis

Richard also met personally with Mayor Chitangala on his return trip to Lusaka after the Cape Town Summit. In that meeting Richard was able to share best practices from Albuquerque's Economic Development Department, as well as from the ASCF Lusaka Committee headed up by Dr. Harold Bailey, which has focused much lately on expanding Zambian student attendance at New Mexico's universities, such as at Western New Mexico University in Silver City, and Eastern New Mexico University in Portales. With such exchanges, and others to come, Richard hopes to see additional New Mexico and U.S. cities partner together with cities in Zambia, as part of the ongoing SCI 500 in 5 Initiative.

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Continued:

Because New Mexico has three sister city relationships with Zambia: Albuquerque with Lusaka (Zambia’s capital), Santa Fe with Livingston, and Clovis with Kasama, ASCF board member Richard Buckler, was able to attend the Summit.

SCI New Mexico State Representative and recently appointed SCI Country Representative between Zambia and the U.S. Attending from Zambia was Grace Kasengele (Foh-Amoaning), who has been part of the ongoing connections first started between New Mexico and Zambia by Honorary Consul Patrick Mapalo. Ms. Kasengele’s daughter, Agape, has attended.

Lorna K. Johnson, SCI’s US-Africa Summit Convener, said: “I am proud to be a part of this gathering of 500 citizen diplomats from across the United States, South Africa, and the African continent - especially during this time of reflection, honor, and tribute during African American History month. May our ancestors, contemporaries, and future descendants be stirred by the objectives and achievements of this international forum, among the largest and most important in Sister Cities International’s 67-year history.”

Sister Cities International is delighted to begin this new chapter in our organization’s history. We look forward to welcoming you to SCI’s Africa Summit at the Southern Sun Cape Sun Hotel in Cape Town, South Africa!

About Sister Cities International – Founded as a Presidential Initiative by Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for more than 300 U.S. communities with over 1,400 partnerships in more than 130 countries on six continents. The Sister Cities International network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote the organization’s mission of creating world peace and understanding through programs and projects focusing on arts and culture, youth and education, business and trade, and community development.

For additional media or press inquiries or access to our press kit for SCI’s Africa Summit, contact Sister Cities International’s Communications Manager, Maranda Finney, at communications@sistercities.org.



Richard with representatives



From L to R: Grace Kasengele (Foh-Amoaning), Richard Buckler, Mayor Chilando Chitangala, Mayor Theresa Kolala

When Russia Meets Ukraine Head On

By: Celeste Nuñez

It was powerful to hear former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William B. Taylor (who just so happens to be a NM-native) give his case for the war's threat to EU security and his future predictions of an end. Exploring how the military history of the Baltic Sea shaped Finland and Sweden's decision to join NATO by Finnish Honorary Consul Juha Makikalli. And finally, learning about the concept of a Global Nuclear Order from Dr. Siegfried S. Hecker, former Los Alamos National Laboratory Director, was nothing short of thought-provoking.



Celeste and Mellie

2023 March Zoom event with Sasebo

By Kazumi Kawakubo– Todman

We held the 55th Sister City Zoom meeting with Sasebo on March 4th, 2023 to close out the celebration for the 55th sister city anniversary. We had the students and Ms. Mai Wakisaka, the teacher, from the Japanese Class CEC (Career Enrichment Center) who participated in the online exchange program with SaseboCity Nishi (west) High School for the last two years. The Sasebo Sister Cities sponsored and recognized the first three students who made the video of the community and self-introduction in Japanese.



Students from the Japanese Class CEC

Kazumi, the chair of Sasebo Sister City, visited the CEC Japanese

class taught by teacher Mai Wakisaka on 4/18 to share about the Sasebo and the youth sister city exchange program. These students are from the various Albuquerque Public Schools.



Delegation joining from Japan



Supporters that helped make everything possible

40th anniversary Celebration

By Nathan Young

A group of 16 members of Albuquerque Sister Cities traveled to Helmstedt between May 31st and June 6th 2023 led by Chair Nathan Young. On June 2nd, they celebrated the 40th anniversary of our relationship which was established on May 29th, 1983.



Bernallio Economic Director Marcos Gonzalez, Helmstedt Sister Cities President Dr. Joachim Scherrieble, Burgermeister Shobert, Reinhard Heidfeld

Helmstedt's English Sister City Chard also attended the event with a delegation of 23 members led by Chair Rob Grimmond. They came to celebrate Albuquerque and Helmstedt's anniversary and their 40th anniversary which was officially in 2020. The celebration was held at the historic Monastery of St. Ludger which was founded in 800 AD. Helmstedt Chairs Nathan Young and Reinhard Heidfeld and Bernallio Economic Director Marcos Gonzalez presented the Mayor of Helmstedt, Burgermeister Shobert and Helmstedt Sister Cities President Dr. Joachim Scherrieble with a Nambe platter to commemorate the event.

During their time in Helmstedt they

toured with their host families and friends to surrounding cities and towns such as Magdeburg, Wolfsburg, and Goslar. They also went to the former border town of Hötensleben. This town is just outside of Helmstedt and has one of the best preserved sections of the former wall and border between what was once East and West Germany.

The Albuquerque group also traveled before and after their time in Helmstedt to Berlin, Potsdam, Schwerin, Lübeck, Nurnberg, Munich, and Salzburg and its surrounding areas.

In 2024, Helmstedt plans on having a delegation of 20-30 people visit Albuquerque in the Fall to continue celebrating our 40th. In the spring of 2024 we should have a list of guests and start looking for host families. Please contact Helmstedt Chair Nathan Young if you would like to be a host.



Group that attended the festivities



Meeting with Mayor Shobert

Albuquerque Engaged With the world Conference

By Pam Feather

On June 17, 2023, Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation and Global Ties ABQ co-hosted Albuquerque Engaged With The World Conference. Over 150 attendees, which included Albuquerque's Global Engagement partners who participated in this first conference. The group was welcomed by Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller. Followed by Keynote Speakers; Anne Grimes, Director of the US State Department's Visiting Leadership Program, Max Gruner, Albuquerque Economic Development Director, and Dr. Manuel Montoya, UNM International Management Professor.

Participants attended three different breakout discussions: Citizen Diplomacy; facilitated by Greg Polk, Global Ties ABQ and Pam Feather, Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation Trade Promotion; facilitated by Alberto Solis, Program Director Q Station, Celeste Nunez, New Mexico Trade Alliance, and Marcos Gonzales, Director of Economic Development of Bernalillo County Educational and Cultural Exchanges; facilitated by Nicole Tami, Executive Director of Global Education Initiatives, UNM, and Tom Frouge, Executive Director of Avokado Artists and Globalquerque Members of the Global Shapers Organization enlighten the participants with their Global views.

Many Thanks to all volunteers and participants in making the conference a success! Special thanks to Albuquerque Economic Development Department and Minority Business Development Agency Business Center for their sponsorship. Thank you Alison Freese for your photos.



Pam and Melora with Mayor Tim Keller



Breakout room discussions



Ron Manginell



Dr. Montoya speaking with attendees



City of Albuquerque team



Youth Delegation panel



Max Gruner with Pam



Pam and Melora with Anne Grimes

Sister Cities Annual meeting

By Alana Mcgrattan

The Sister Cities Annual Meeting was held at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center on June 25th. The election of officers included Alana McGrattan, second Vice-President; Dave Bagley, third Vice-President; Richard Buckler, Treasurer; Sybil Keyser, Secretary. Andrew Thomas, Dine from IPCC performed on a traditional Native American flute. Presentations by all the Committee Chairs gave members an update of future events and travel opportunities. We were pleased to see our longtime members Sally-Alice Thompson and David Hsi.

We are hosting a large delegation of Turkmen performers on October 24th at the Kiva Auditorium so save the date for this special free opportunity. It is the only performance in the United States and will include over 30 singers, dancers and musicians jointly sponsored by the Embassy of Turkmenistan and Albuquerque Sister Cities.



Dr. David Hsi and Sally Alice Thompson our oldest ASCF Members with past ASCF President



Andrew Thomas from DINE tribe



Alberto Solís giving updates for Alburquerque, Spain



Oguljan Young giving updates for Ashgabat, Turkmenistan



Nathan Young giving updates for Helmsted, Germany



Lin Ye giving updates for Lanzhou, China



Dr. Bailey Giving updates for Lusaka, Zambia



Alma Solís Giving updates for Chihuahua



Mai Wakisaka Giving an update For Sasebo, Japan

Guadalajara trip Celebrating 100 years of their fire department

By Celeste Nuñez

Excited to have visited Guadalajara with the Albuquerque Fire Department for the 100th Anniversary of the Gobierno de Guadalajara's Fire Department! This was a celebration of Guadalajara's legacy of firefighters and be reminded of the strong bonds we share globally.

During our visit, Albuquerque's Battalion Chief and Guadalajara's Fire Chief met to share public safety best practices and develop a plan for future collaboration. We also had the pleasure of meeting with the City of San Ignacio Cerro Gordo, who recently received a fire truck donation from Albuquerque Fire Rescue after being introduced by the City of Guadalajara.

In addition to the festivities surrounding the anniversary, our delegation, comprised of leaders from the City of Albuquerque Economic Development Department and the The Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce, met with additional City officials and the Guadalajara Chamber of Commerce Cámara de Comercio de Guadalajara to discuss trade and tourism initiatives.



Albuquerque's Battalion Chief and Guadalajara's Fire Chief



Full delegation that attended the anniversary



Celebration of Guadalajara's legacy of firefighters



Exchanging gifts between cities



City of Albuquerque and the City of Guadalajara

Albuquerque and Kharkiv

By Pam Feather

June 29, 2023, marked the beginning of Albuquerque, New Mexico and Kharkiv, Ukraine's Sister Cities Partnership. The partnership established the 11th Sister City for Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation.

From New Mexico Trade Alliance, Celeste Nuñez

Congratulations to the City of Albuquerque, New Mexico and Kharkiv, Ukraine on becoming Sister Cities! We couldn't have been prouder to have played a role in the establishment of this relationship.

In our capacity as foreign relations advisors to the City of Albuquerque, we were at the table supporting the City of Albuquerque Economic Development Department, Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation, and Sister Cities International in coordinating all the necessary steps to make this formal relationship a reality.

Citizen diplomacy was born in the wake of World War II to empower peacemaking at the grassroots level. The war in Ukraine has reminded us of the importance of these efforts. We're inspired by Albuquerque's leadership in answering the call for humanitarian aid to the people of Ukraine.



Protocol of Intent signing



Protocol of Intent with Mayor Keller and Mayor Terekhov



City of Albuquerque team



Harbir Bhatia SCI Ukraine country representative



President Pam Feather



Peter Svarzbein SCI board of Directors



Simran Stuelpnagel



Mayor Tim Keller with Ukrainian American New Mexico Organization

The official Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ava Montoya | 505-259-0650

June 29, 2023

Albuquerque Announces Sister City Partnership with Kharkiv, Ukraine

Relationship will foster mutual support, promote humanitarian outreach and assistance

ALBUQUERQUE – Today the City of Albuquerque announced intention to establish a Sister Cities International (SCI) relationship with the city of Kharkiv, located in the northeast region of Ukraine. The partnership was celebrated virtually by both Albuquerque and Kharkiv, with Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller and Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov attending.

Kharkiv, the second-largest city in Ukraine, has been targeted by Russian attacks since the start of the Russia-Ukraine War in 2022, but according to recent reports, citizens are beginning to return to the city. Albuquerque officials and Mayor Keller hope to support Mayor Terekhov and Kharkiv residents during the reconstruction of the city, with damages estimated to be around \$50 billion.

“We’re grateful to foster a relationship with Kharkiv that transcends borders and promotes peace and understanding,” said **Mayor Tim Keller**. “The people and leadership of Kharkiv are incredibly resilient, and we stand in solidarity with our Ukrainian friends, especially as they defend their democracy against Russian invasion.”

President Dwight D. Eisenhower developed Sister Cities International in 1956, envisioning an organization that would promote peace and prosperity by creating bonds between people from different cities around the world. Mayor Keller and Mayor Terekhov began exploring a city-to-city relationship in early 2023, and found that both cities shared a deep sense of community and cultural pride, as well as the promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship as a path to improve the quality of life for their respective citizens.

“The war continues, and in these difficult times it is especially important for our city to feel the support of the United States of America as a strategic partner of Ukraine in the fight against Russian aggression,” said **Mayor Ihor Terekhov**. “I am deeply grateful to all Albuquerque citizens and to Timothy Keller personally for this important step towards sister cities relations which are of great importance for our city. And I am convinced that our cooperation will be a solid foundation for the further development of Kharkiv and Albuquerque in terms of the implementation joint projects aimed at the success of both communities.”

“We want to thank Mayors Keller and Terekhov for formalizing this friendship between cities. We are eager to explore how we can involve Albuquerque and the deep expertise of local companies in the rebuilding of Kharkiv,” said **Economic Development Director Max Gruner**. “I’m looking forward to cultivating this relationship, and to explore mutually beneficial initiatives as the citizens of Kharkiv secure, rebuild, and revitalize their home.”

"The relationship between Kharkiv and Albuquerque shows the power of President Eisenhower's vision of citizen diplomacy almost 70 years after the formation of Sister Cities International," said **Peter Svarzbein, Sister Cities International Board of Directors Chair**. "Now more than ever before these kinds of global partnerships and exchanges are so important to residents and cities in the United States and the world as they build bridges of understanding and bring economic, educational and cultural value to our member cities."

"I am proud to see the seed planted by a few citizens from both cities and countries earlier this year has become the reality of a Sister City relationship," said **Harbir K Bhatia, Sister Cities International Country Representative for Ukraine**. "Sister Cities International is truly about the people to people relationships flourishing into great partnerships and friendships. I am looking forward to the bridge being established between Kharkiv and Albuquerque."

"What a joy for the City of Albuquerque, to partner with New Mexico's first Ukrainian sister city-- Kharkiv, especially in this critical time where People to People connections, expressing our common humanity and goodwill, are more important than ever," said **Richard Buckler Sister, Cities International New Mexico State Representative**.

"On June 29th Kharkiv and Albuquerque's Sister Cities Partnership established the 11th Sister Cities for Albuquerque. Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation is honored to connect people to people for mutual endeavors through Humanitarian, Educational, Cultural, and Economic programs creating lifelong friendships," said **Pam Feather, Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation President**.

###

MOU signing in Kharkiv Ukraine

By Pam Feather

On July 6, 2023 a delegation from New Mexico along with SCI Ukraine Country Representative Harbir Bhatia were in Kharkiv for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Albuquerque and Kharkiv. Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller, Albuquerque citizens, and Bob Herring, President of Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister Cities participated by Zoom.



Mayor of Kharkiv, Ihor Terekhov and Max Gruner



Mayor of Albuquerque, Tim Keller



Max Gruner meeting with officials



Uniting two Cities



Soccer kids getting ready for their match



Arrival into Ukraine

Albuquerque – Hualien 40th Anniversary

By: Yu-Lin Shen

Hualien Committee Chair Yu-Lin Shen and Co-chair Ru-Bing Hsu visited Hualien, Taiwan in July 2023, to kick off the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Albuquerque and Hualien. On July 3 they were warmly welcomed by the new Hualien City Mayor Jia-Yan Wei and other City officials. During the meeting at the City Office, the host and visitors chatted about the past and mapped out plans for the near future between the two cities, and a certificate signed by the two Mayors to commemorate the anniversary was also presented. This visit has generated considerable publicity including coverage by local news media. The celebration does not stop here. Mayor Tim Keller plans to visit Hualien in March 2024, and ASCF is organizing a membership trip to Taiwan to coordinate with the Mayor's visit. Hualien Mayor Wei also expressed strong interest in visiting Albuquerque next year.

On July 4, 2023, the Chair and Co-chair visited National Hualien High School (HLHS) and were greeted by the school Principal Mr. Peng-Yao Yang and his staff. This meeting took place after two years of highly successful virtual exchanges between the HLHS students and Albuquerque Public Schools' Career Enrichment Center (CEC) Chinese Language classes. A highlight of the visit is that a MOU was formalized between HLHS and CEC, to expand their cooperative activities.



Hualien Committee Chair/Co-Chair & Mayor of Hualien City Jia-Yan Wei



Presentation of MOU at the National Hualien Senior High School

Welcome George Klapischak Kharkiv Chair and Nataliya Edelman Kharkiv CoChair!!



George Klapischak, Kharkiv Chair

George is the son of Ukrainian refugees that arrived in New York just after WWII. Since childhood he was immersed in and grew to love and nurture all things Ukrainian. After graduate school George began his career in city government and consulting and then transitioned into a two-decade career in the investment and insurance industry, eventually becoming CFO of Ukrainian Fraternal Association, an international fraternal life insurance company. George then left the relative safety of a corporate desk to welcome several multifaceted entrepreneurial challenges in starting up several international management, manufacturing, heavy construction, and industrial marketing firms for global export and import industries, while also administering and growing World Trade Center and Foreign Trade Zone initiatives, even travelling to post-Soviet Central Asia to identify new markets. He holds both undergraduate and graduate degrees from Rutgers University. His passion for helping people find solutions and discovering new opportunities remains close to his heart, all while maintaining the highest ethical standards in personal and business behavior.



Nataliya P. Edelman Kharkiv Co-Chair

Nataliya was raised in Bucha, Kyiv region. As a young mother starting out, she encountered first-hand the Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe and was evacuated to Siberia with her 8-month-old son leaving behind her husband who was mustered onto the site of the meltdown as a “liquidator”. Her son served in the United States Air Force and is a mechanical engineer. Nataliya holds a master’s degree in TV Production from Kyiv National Theater, Cinema and TV Production University. At school, she had the opportunity to work on different aspects of production. She is a director, PRE and POST Production certified from New Mexico CC, is an owner of Yona Film Production, LLC. She was a former Producer at SKY-DIVEFILM Production. Nataliya was chosen to represent the NM school at several Ukraine international cinema conferences. She is also Founder and Co-Producer at Ukrainian Film Festival, New Mexico. Nataliya has been a judge for IISFF Independent International Short Film Festival, New York since 2018. Nataliya is the Co-founder and President of Ukrainian Americans of New Mexico. She is very active and enjoys learning new things such as playing the piano, reading historical and philosophical books and exercise which she is a certified yoga teacher.

SAVE THE DATE

Ukraine Independence Day! Sunday, August 27, 2023 2:00-4:30

Congregation Albert
3800 Louisiana Blvd NE, Albuquerque

To raise Awareness! Celebrate Ukrainian Culture! Support Ukraine!
Hosted by Ukrainian Americans of New Mexico

In association with  **ALBUQUERQUE**
Sister Cities Foundation

\$10.00
at the door

Performances!
Displays!

Ukrainian Food!
Raffle Prizes!



Save the Date!

October 24, 2023, 7 pm, Kiva Auditorium

A delegation of dancers and musicians from Albuquerque's Sister City

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

will perform in a **free** concert. The event is sponsored by the Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation and will be their only performance in the U.S. All are invited!

While our 45 Turkmen guests are in town, we will need volunteers to help greet and accompany the visitors, usher on the night of the concert, provide transportation, etc.



Please email Mellie Myer at melliemyer@gmail.com to help!

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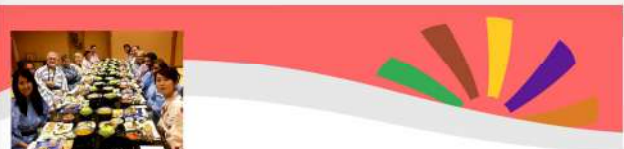
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March 22nd 2024– April 2nd 2024

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Join the ASCF trip to our sister city Sasebo, Japan November 24, 2023 to December 2!



Join Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller and Albuquerque Sister Cities members this fall for a multi-city visit to Japan!

- Visit our sister city, Sasebo for two full days and reconnect with our Japanese hosts and ASCF's 55-year partnership.
- Travel by bullet train to the ancient city of Kyoto to experience traditional hospitality in a Japanese ryokan or inn and enjoy the autumn colors there.
- Visit Japan's vibrant capital, Tokyo, for a day before returning to Albuquerque.

ANA Economy: \$1773.55 with a \$50/per passenger possible price increase

More details soon! Please email Kazumi Kawakubo, kazumikawakubo@gmail.com if you are interested!



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