



ALBUQUERQUE

Sister Cities Foundation



December 2023

January 27th- International Tea (12:30p-2:30p)

TBD- Global Engagement Partners follow up (Globalties ABQ/ASCF event)

FEB- Bio Park event to bring in Japanese New Year <https://www.cabq.gov/artsculture/biopark/events>

February 10th—Chinese New Year

March 17th-March 24th- Hualien, Taiwan membership trip See information on page 10 and 11

April- Open World Project – Turkmenistan

May 28-31- Sister Cities International All Americas Summit in San Antonio

June TBD- Annual Meeting

AND MORE TO COME!!

We've enjoyed this past year with all our members and look forward to seeing you at upcoming events in 2024

World Affairs Council Monthly Dinner August 31, 2023 *by Richard Buckler*



Fabiola Melendez and Richard Buckler

Global Ties invited Albuquerque Sister City Board Members, Fabiola Melendez and Richard Buckler, to attend a dinner and discussion on NATO after the Ukraine War, and its response to the Ukraine War. The event was held at Tanoan's Country Club, and leading the discussion was Dr. James A. Tegnalia, vice president, Department of Defense Programs, Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, N.M.

Recently, Dr. Tegnalia has been named the third Director, Defense Threat Reduction Agency. Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs. Given the expertise of the speaker, both Fabiola and Richard found the program very informative, especially from the context of the future of Albuquerque's newest sister city of Kharkiv, Ukraine.

Dr. Tegnalia also discussed other related topics, such as the Biden Administrations' "Worker Centered" Trade Policy, and the two 2022 Biden Administration polices of

- the IPEF (Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity)
- the APEP (America's Partnership for Economic Prosperity)

Also attending the dinner event and sitting with Fabiola and Richard were several young professionals

from Global Shapers. Global Shapers participated with Albuquerque Sister Cities/Global Ties in the

recent June 2023 "Engaged With The World" Conference. Not surprisingly, our World Affairs Council

hosts recognized Fabiola and the other Global Shapers in attendance, as the hope for our future. Dito for

the future of Sister Cities!



Dr. James A. Tegnalia

Ukraine Independence Day Celebration *by Fabiola Melendez*

On Saturday, August 27th, the community gathered to celebrate Ukraine's Independence Day. Celebrating a country full of culture. Spectators were able to see live performances, music and try traditional foods. Despite the hardships of war, everyone was able to gather and celebrate traditions that have been passed down through generations.



Traditional food from Ukraine



Ukraine's flag

"Así es México" *by Celeste Nuñez Salcido*

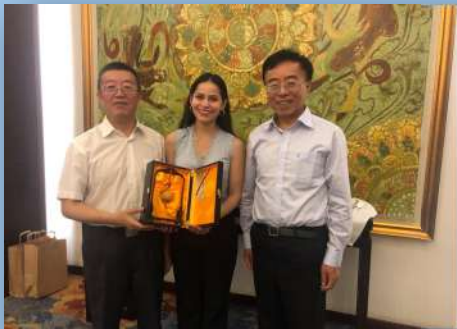
Guadalajara Chair Celeste Nuñez Salcido and President Pam Feather were happy to join the *Asi es Mexico* Seminar September 26th, 2023 organized by the Mexican Federal Tourism Department. The seminar was kicked off with a speech from the Secretary of Tourism Miguel Torruco that detailed Mexico's tourism successes and the priority to establish a direct flight between New Mexico and Mexico. Other Mexican tourism directors and associations also gave destination presentations.



Miguel Torruco

Gansu Fellow Program By-Celeste Nuñez Salcido

Celeste Nuñez Salcido was thrilled to participate as the U.S. Fellow during the 2023 Gansu International Fellowship Program organized by the People's Provincial Government of Gansu. This fellowship convenes professional candidates from around the world to learn about Gansu's and China's economic development efforts, cultural heritage, language, and history to promote mutual understanding and peaceful cooperation. The 3-week fellowship included informative seminars on various Chinese topics presented by thought leaders and professors, site visits and meetings with prominent companies from the region, leaders, and organizations contributing to the province's development, and educational cultural tours. Celeste's participation in the program marked the first exchange opportunity between Albuquerque and Lanzhou since the pandemic.



Celeste Receiving gifts



All of the professional candidates



Celeste receiving a certificate

Visitors from Consulate General of China at Los Angeles by Lin Ye

Diplomats of the Chinese Consulate General in LA visited Albuquerque and met ASCF board members Alana McGrattan, Richard Buckler, Celeste Nunez and Lin Ye on 10/17/2023. The past and current relationship of Albuquerque and Lanzhou has been reviewed.



Full Delegation attending



Mr. SHI Yuanqiang and Richard Buckler

Turkmen Days by Fabiola Melendez

On October 24th, a delegation of dancers and musicians from Ashgabat, Turkmenistan performed a free concert. Ashgabat wanted this family friendly event to be a gift to the people of Albuquerque. The concert represented unity of the two cities. Spectators were able to witness amazing culture through dance and music.

Ashgabat committee was also asked to help start MOU between Turkmen Institute of Foreign Relations and the University of New Mexico. Alana McGrattan helped to organize the MOU and worked with Global Ed Director Nicole Tami at UNM. This was scheduled for October 23rd. The Turkmen Ambassador Orazov met with President Stokes of the University of New Mexico to confirm that the Turkmen side is still interested in signing the MOU in 2024. The representatives of the Turkmen Institute were not able to come to Albuquerque with the rest of the delegation.



All of the dancers and musicians



Ashgabat's dancers



Mayor Tim Keller and the Turkman Ambassador Meret Orazov



Dancers with Mayor Tim Keller

Guadalajara exchange program partnered with STEMarts Lab for STEM exhibit at the International Balloon Fiesta *By Fabiola Melendez*

From October 10th to October 15th visitors of the International Balloon Fiesta were able to try out the Immersive Space Messengers. Mayor Tim Keller, First Lady Elizabeth Keller and Consulate General of Guadalajara were of many that attended the event. Spectators were able to as an Astrophysicist tough STEM questions.

Through the International Exchange Program, Agnes Chaves was able to bring Ambassadors and students to Albuquerque from Guadalajara. Students were selected from San Jose del Valle High School in Guadalajara. They participated in a 7- week Space Messengers workshop exchange with Albuquerque High School. Sister Cities Members hosted the Ambassadors and students.



Space Messengers



A Spectator asking an Astrophysics



Mayor Tim Keller at Space Messengers



Space Messengers in action



All Ambassadors, students, and Sister Cities representatives

Sasebo, Japan Mayor Delegation by Nathan Young



Full Delegation



The Kuju Island Kanno park overlooking the 99 islands.

Between November 26th and the 29th a joint ASCF membership and Mayoral delegation visited Sasebo, Japan. The trip was led by Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller, Sister City President Pam Feather and Sasebo Chair Kazumi Kawakubo. Albuquerque and Sasebo became Sister Cities in 1966. During the visit Mayor Keller and recently elected Sasebo Mayor Daisuke Miyajima had a meeting at the Sasebo City Hall and reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining and growing our Sister City relationship. They discussed our rich history including our past student exchanges and the much anticipated Albuquerque to Sasebo student exchange planned for the summer of 2025.

Some of the highlights of our visit were two welcome receptions. The first one was on the first evening from the Sasebo Sister Cities foundation and the second was hosted by the City of Sasebo. Visitors were able to see many of the historic and interesting sites in and around Sasebo. Some of the highlights were the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, a boat cruise around a few of the 99 islands at the Saikai National Park, a visit to the local aquarium, a tour of the 200 year old Umegae sake brewery and a wonderful evening at one of Japan's largest theme parks Huis Ten Bosch-which has a Dutch theme. We were overwhelmed by the amazing kindness and hospitality that we received from the citizens of Sasebo.



Stephan West and group

During our trip we met with a 2016 exchange student Stephan West in Kyoto. He is now working on his PHD in archeology in Himeji, Japan. Kyoto was the former capital of Japan and has numerous historical temples and palaces. During our visit people were visiting from around the world to enjoy the beautiful fall colors

Ruslan Alikperov From Kharkiv, Ukraine visits Albuquerque by Pam Feather

Ruslan Alikperov was Albuquerque's first visitor from Kharkiv November 12th to November 14th . During his visit he had meetings with Sahaj Khalsa, UNM Professor to discuss medical supply needs and Emily V. Jaramillo, Albuquerque Fire Chief, to see the ambulance the City has to donate to Kharkiv. He met with Mike Silva to discuss the possibility of bringing a youth basketball team to train with UNM Lobos and ABC Academy. He also met with Peter Travisani, New Mexico United owner to discuss bringing a youth soccer team for training. The abqsistercities.org website has more information and an opportunity to donate to these projects.



Emily V. Jaramillo, Fire Chief and her team



Gift from New Mexico United's Owner Peter Trevisani

Congratulations to Agape Foh-Amoaning from Lusaka, Zambia!

She graduated with her BSN and honors from Western New Mexico University!!!



Richard Buckler Zambia Country Rep, Agape Foh-Amoaning, John Foh-Amoaning (Agape's Father)

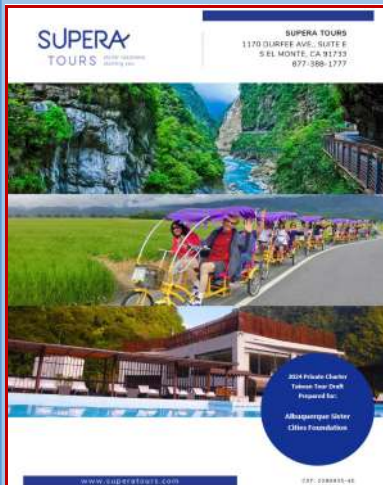


Agape Foh-Amoaning, Pam, and John Feather

Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation Membershio Trip to Hualien/Taiwan

March 17-24th, 2023

Come enjoy the amazing scaries, culture and people in Taiwan (including our Sister City Hualien), with luxurious accommodations and unforgettable culinary experiences!



Day 1 (3/17) Sunday:

Albuquerque, USA ▶Taipei, Taiwan.

- We lose one day crossing the international date line (but gain it back going home)

Day 2 (3/18) Monday: *Hotel: The Okura optional*

Taoyuan International Airport (TPE) →Taipei

Welcome to Taiwan! You will be greeted by a Supera Representative at the airport.

Day 3 (3/19) Tuesday: *Dinning: 2 meals included Hotel: The Okura Prestige Taipei*

Taipei

- National Palace Museum: See the world's largest collection for Chinese Artifacts. Our visit is carefully timed to avoid crowds.

- Lunch at Din Tai Fung: taste delicious "xiao long bao", fresh vegetables, and much more at the world famous dumpling restaurant
- Return to the hotel in the afternoon to rest.
- Join our guide in a local night market to experience Taiwanese snacks and the amazingly efficient MRT system (optional).

Day 4 (3/20) Wednesday: *Dinning 3 meals Hotel: Silks Place Taroko (George View Room)*

Hualien

- *Official visit to Hualien City Government*
- *Visit Hualien Senior High School.*
- *Taroko National Park: Meaning "magnificent and beautiful" in the Truku aboriginal language; Taroko George is a natural wonder and a landmark of Taiwan. Photo Stop at East—West Highway Arch, the gateway to Taroko.*
- *Tonight's hotel is the only 5—Star resort inside the National Park. Take in a beautiful view of the stars and gorge while soaking in the rooftop spa or watch an aboriginal performance in the evening.*

Day 5 (3/21) Thursday Dinning: *3 meals Hotel: Skills Place Taroko (Gorge View Room)*

Haulien

- *Swallow Grotto Trail: Hike the most beautiful section of the Taroko Gorge. Se magnificent canyons, soaring marble formations, and subtropical springs. (Walking time: 1hr; Difficulty (no))*
- *Buluowan Suspension Bridge: The longest and highest bridge in Taroko National Park.*
- *Free time to see nearby sites: Zhihui bridge and Xiangde Temple*
- *Baiyang Waterfall trail walk (optional)*

(Continues on next page)

Day 6 (3/22) Friday: Dinning: 3 Meals

Hualien ➔ Chihpen

- *Morning: Enjoy hotel facilities*
- *Chihshang: Spend time enjoying the beautiful countryside. Bike and stroll through lush green rice fields*
- *Chihpen: Challenge the Haohanpo Trail to take a forest bath and enjoy the natural greenery. Hot Springs.*

Day 7 (3/23) Saturday: Dinning: 3 Meals

Chihpen-Lugang & Taichung

- *Board the south link railway views of Taiwan's Coastline. Afternoon Tea in Great Flower Hall*
- *Electric Trycle tour of historic trade town*

Day 8 (3/24) Sunday: Dinning: 2 meals

Back to Taoyuan International Airport, or Extended Stay

- *Sendoff included for flights after 7PM. For guests extending in Taiwan, we can arrange dropoff in downtown Taipei (Okura Hotel)*
- *Tour price (waiting for Quotes: ~\$2,500 land price—depending on number of partivipants/hotel stay, + air)*
- *Fully guided servive, meals as listed above with soft drinks, transportation, admissions, 4-5 star hotels, whisper headsets, complimentary emergency travel insuranve, taxes, fuel surcharges, and fees included. Complementary airport transfers are included for flights within tour pickup and sendoff timeframes. Excludes flights, gratuities for our guides and drivers.*
- *For more information, contact Sister Cities Hualien Committee Co-chair Ms. Ru-Bing Hsu (rubingshu@yahoo.com, 505-797-2648)*

WinterFest 2023 by Pam Feather

On December 10th, members of the Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation and the Ukrainian Americans of New Mexico Organization celebrated WinterFest at the Edelweiss Am Rio Grande - German American Club. The group enjoyed traditional Ukrainian dances and violinist performances. Each Sister City shared what festivities their city enjoys during December and the New Year. It was wonderful seeing everyone who attended and we miss those who could not be there. Enjoy your time with your family and friends this Winter!



Performances at WinterFest