On Sunday, June 10, 2012 Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation hosted its annual meeting and election of officers. It was held at the Edelweiss am Rio Grande German American Club. About 70+ people were in attendance including Stephen Helgesen, Honorary German Consul. And ASCF youth group had some representation, too.

With a German band and German food, ASCF’s sister city of Helmstedt, Germany was featured. Monies were collected for a Betty Davis memorial plaque sponsored by Friendship Force—totaling $131. Also collected were items for the cultural “box” program sponsored by ACIV.

Speaking about their specific sister city, the committee chairs told about upcoming events and proposed activities and trips. Door prizes of gift certificates to Swiss Alps Bakery were given out.

ASCF Committee Chairs: L to R: Oguljan Young, Ashgabat; Nathan Young, Helmstedt; Yu-Lin Shen, Hualien; Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman, Sasebo; Eva Gonzales, Alburquerque; Janice Moranz, Rehovot; David Hsi, Lanzhou; Alma Solis, Chihuahua and Richard Buckler
With German music in the air and plenty of food to eat, ASCF celebrated the close of another fiscal year at our annual meeting. Our featured Sister City was Helmstedt, Germany. For those who attended, didn’t the event make you want to sign-up for the trip to Helmstedt this September? Each chair was able to share some of the events we can look forward to this coming fall and spring, as ASCF enters its 53rd year of participation with the international movement started by President Dwight Eisenhower.

To highlight a few of the recent or upcoming events:

Rehovot chair, Dr. Janice Morantz, mentioned that Keshet Dance, under the direction of Shira Greenberg, would represent ASCF in Rehovot the last few weeks of June as part of an ongoing modern dance exchange.

Sasebo chair Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman, along with two chaperons (Denise Mullen and I) will take a group of students to visit Sasebo later this July. Mayor Tomonaga is expected to visit Albuquerque this coming November.

Helmstedt student delegation arrives July 24 to begin a 17-day exchange that will feature our local attractions as well as take them to the Grand Canyon and Carlsbad Caverns. You can meet them at the closing reception August 10.

Helmstedt chair, Nathan Young, will lead a delegation of adults back to Germany leaving Sept. 20.

Albuquerque chair, Eva Gonzales, is leading a group to Spain departing September 25.

On September 27, two librarians from our sister city of Ashgabat, will arrive for a visit co-sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Ashgabat.

In this new fiscal year, I’m hoping we, as an organization, continue to build the foundation for the future by investing in our youth. Just this past month, I helped facilitate in the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission (MLKJC) Youth Camp. What energy and enthusiasm I experienced from the 200 plus participants! Two of ASCF youth—Tatiana and Elena were able to attend, along with Youth Coordinator Gina Solis and Chihuahua chair, Alma Solis. We should begin to consider how ASCF might reach out to more youth in our community in various collaborative efforts with MLKJC and other organizations.

Last but not least I want to thank everyone who voted your excellent officers back in for another year. I am grateful for their willingness to continue to serve and your vote of confidence in us. In the new fiscal year we look forward to pursuing the dream of world peace together with you.

RICHARD BUCKLER

Reinhard “Ray” Heidfeld is the co-chair for Helmstedt, Germany. He was born in Bremen, Germany and received his Bachelor’s degree in business. He came to the USA in 1969 to start a commercial design and manufacturing company. He owned several businesses on the East Coast and in Albuquerque, selling the last company six years ago. He has three married daughters and four grandchildren who live in Los Angeles. For business and personal reasons, he has traveled extensively in the USA, Europe, South and Central America. Besides ASCF, he is a board member of the Albuquerque Little Theater and a mentor at the SCORE organization. He speaks German, English and some French and Spanish.

Lin Ye is the co-chair for Lanzhou, China. He came to UNM to major in history and received his PhD in 2000. Currently he is working at the UNM Hospital. His outside interests include badminton and being the President of the Association of Chinese American Engineers and Scientists of New Mexico. He and his wife Ye Yang have two children—one in college and one in high school.

Lin Ye, co-chair of the Lanzhou, China committee.
On Saturday, May 5, 2012, ASCF hosted a pizza party for the international student participants in the 11th annual RoboRAVE.

The Consulate of Mexico in Albuquerque sent 3 representatives to the party to greet the visitors.

Danae Lopez, a volunteer at the event said this was the best competition so far. The founders, Russ Fisher-Ives and Danae’s father, Fabian Lopez, started the event to motivate students to become interested in science and technology. The event participants were to design, make and program and autonomous robot (no remote control). The robots were judged on their completion of a variety of tasks. In the “Line Following Challenge,” the robot carries a load of ping pong balls, delivering them and returning in three minutes. The goal of the fire-extinguishing competition is for the robot to go up to four candles that are set up at different distances and snuff out the candles within three minutes using a built-in air extinguisher that cannot touch the candles. The more than 1,100 competitors came from 348 elementary, middle and high schools in the USA, Mexico and Columbia. Those from the USA came from Colorado and from 26 of the 33 counties in New Mexico. From Mexico, the students came from Juarez and Chihuahua, Albuquerque’s sister city. There were also four students from Columbia. A separate RoboRAVE was held this year in the Czech Republic. Next year, RoboRAVE will expand to a competition held in China and hopefully India. For more info on RoboRAVE go to roboquerque.org.
On Friday, April 13, five women from Turkmenistan arrived in Albuquerque. They were here as a part of an Open World grant. Before coming here, the friendly and enthusiastic ladies had flown over 14 hours from Turkmenistan to Washington, D.C. via Frankfurt, Germany. While in our nation’s capital, they spent two very busy days touring and visiting elected officials. They visited the Turkmenistan Embassy, Library of Congress and the National Archives Building where they saw the Declaration of Independence. The group included Gul-tach Babayeva, Djamila Azimova, Elvira Timurhanova, Chemen Kordova and Shemshat Matyakubova.

Gultach, hosted by Natalya & William Koup, is the general director of “Janly Dargt” Company which focuses on economic appraisals of businesses. For her work, she travels often. In the last 40 days, she had been to Moscow, the Ukraine and Yalta. Mostly, she travels to Europe. Her company works with any business but concentrates on transportation, aviation and chemistry. Also, she works with American oil production companies in Ashgabat. She is married and has a 22 year old son. A vibrant woman, her aunt is the main expert at the Ashgabat Carpet Museum.

Djamila, hosted by Mark & Karen Bentz, is the general director of “Lady”, women’s wear. She imports clothing from Europe, Turkey and the United Emirates. A young woman herself, her clothing focuses on modern comfortable outfits for work and social gatherings. She also carries jeans and accessories. Single and out-going, she is an excellent example of the young entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan.

Elvira, hosted by Fay & Hakim Zamir, is the Turkmenistan distributor for “Christina” cosmetics from Israel. She is also the director of a beauty salon that not only focuses on hair but cosmetics and hand and foot nails. Married with two children (a girl 10 years old and a boy aged one year), she has her doctorate in dermatology. She is very interested in healthy skin care.

Chemen, hosted by Oguljan & Nathan Young, is a manufacturer of concrete blocks. You should see her muscles from moving all those blocks!! Young, single, good looking and enthusiastic, she will go far in the business world.

Shemshat, hosted by Mary Hope & Richard Buckler, is the consular assistant at the United States Embassy in Ashgabat. She was the translator for the group, although most of the women could speak excellent English. She is the epitome of the modern Turkmenistan woman. Engaged to be married, she purchased her wedding gown (straight line with long train and veil) while here in Albuquerque.

The group had a very busy itinerary for their week’s visit. During their spare moments they went shopping. Focusing on presents for their families, shoes and children’s clothing and toys were among the items purchased. Their driver was Artem Artushkov. Coming to the USA in 1997 from the Ukraine, he, his wife and their children have lived in Albuquerque since 2006. He speaks Russian and so was able to act as translator for the group.

Saturday evening Mary Hope & Richard Buckler hosted a reception for our visitors and all ASCF members. A delicious assortment of food accompanied by Richard’s famous beef brisket was on the menu. Richard presented each guest with an ASCF tote bag and a memo pad with pen. A wonderful cake rounded out the evening.

Late Sunday morning the group met at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. Here they had lunch, viewed some Native American dancing and toured the museum.

On Monday April 15, the group first met with Grupo Cementos Chihuahua, a world-class company that produces, distributes and markets cement, ready-mixed concrete, aggregates, and innovative products related to the construction industries in Mexico and the USA. After lunch at Arianna’s, they met in Mayor Berry’s office with his Chief Administrative Officer, Rob Perry as the mayor was out of town. They also met with Economic Development Director John Garcia and International Trade specialist, Randy Trask. Later on they talked with Betty Rivera, Cultural Services Director and Dave Matthews (touring the city’s TV studio). Last but not least they went to a bridal shop for a wedding dress.

Tuesday started off with breakfast at IHoP with Rehovot Chair, Janice Moranz, dermatologist and skin care specialist. A visit to Nob Hill was followed by a meeting with WESST (Women’s Economic Self-Sufficiency Team). WESST is a small business development organization that serves as a hub for entrepreneurship and small business development. Skipping lunch as they were still full from breakfast; they visited the Biopark, aquarium and zoo, riding the train between them.

Wednesday the group traveled to Santa Fe. At the Museum of International Folk Art, they saw some old Turkmen jewelry. The women also visited several women’s businesses and the Museum of Indian Art and Culture. After lunch at the Museum, they toured the spa at La Posada Inn. That evening Jim and Jean Genassi hosted a pot luck supper.

CONTINUED on next page.....
TURKMEN VISIT CONT...

Early Thursday morning, they assembled with Dave Bagley and Rainbow Ryders for a potential hot air balloon ride. Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate but a demonstration of setting up a balloon for a ride was given. After breakfast at Weck’s, they went to the Albuquerque Balloon Museum, had lunch at Sweet Tomatoes and then went off to Costco, International Wholesale Club, meeting with women managers. A visit to Sandia Laboratory Federal Credit Union and Laura Reinhold, Regional Branch Manager, rounded out the day.

On Friday, the women visited a bed & breakfast, Inn New Mexico, on 17th Street in Old Town, enjoying tea and muffins with Nancy Hoffman, the owner. Next was a trip to ACCION New Mexico to learn about micro loans to start a small business. Lunch was at the Church Street Café, meeting with owner Marie Coleman. After a visit to Sliver Butterfly, a souvenir shop in Old Town and meeting with its owner Lynda Hudson, they went shopping. A farewell dinner was held at the home of Oguljan and Nathan Young. Arianna’s catered the meal. All enjoyed hearing about the previous week’s happenings. Oguljan presented each visitors with a gift from the Ashgabat committee—Nambe business card holders engraved with their names. The women also received certificates of accomplishment.

A special thank you to the hosts and the Ashgabat committee for making this a successful week. A trip to Ashgabat is planned for spring 2013—if interested, please contact Oguljan Young, the Ashgabat committee chair.

ASCF Donates Basket to Mayor Berry’s Charity Gala

On Friday, June 15, 2012, the Mayor and First Lady’s Charity Gala was held. The event raised money for Art in the School, Keshet Dance Company and the United Way of Central New Mexico. ASCF donated a gift basket of items representing our nine sister cities. This basket along with other baskets was auctioned to raise funds for charity. Thank you to the committee chairs for obtaining these items and to Alma Solis for attractively arranging them in the basket.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of William (Bill) Myers on April 8, 2012. He was an active member of ASCF, being chair of the Ashgabat, Turkmenistan committee.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Sydney Yen on April 10, 2012. He was an active member of ASCF, being chair of the Hualien, Taiwan Committee.
On Thursday, April 26, 2012, to celebrate Israel’s Independence Day, a special dance performance was held at the Sandia Prep High School Theater. Nationally acclaimed and Albuquerque-based Keshet Dance performed with world-class choreographer and dancer, Bar Roggel from our sister city, Rehovot, Israel. The event was sponsored by the Jewish Federation of New Mexico and Albuquerque Sister Cities.

Shira Greenberg, artistic director and founder of Keshet just returned from Rehovot, Israel. During her visit, Keshet dancers and Ms. Roggel performed for Israeli audiences, completing the first dance exchange for the Rehovot committee, now chaired by Janice Moranz.

On Saturday, April 28, 2012 the Helmstedt committee held a German dinner to raise funds to cover the costs of the activities of the German youth visiting Albuquerque this coming summer. Brats, sauerkraut, red cabbage, German potato salad and apple strudel were the entrees. There was also a silent auction. The group raised $279.

Under the flags of Germany, Bavaria and USA are L to R: Carl Londene, Ray Heidfeld and Richard Buckler.

Checking out the items for the silent auction are David Buckler and Carl Londene.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

Is it time to renew your membership to ASCF???. If applicable, we have included your renewal letter with this newsletter. Please use the membership form on the back of this newsletter and send it with your remittance to ASCF—P.O. Box 26533—Albuquerque, NM 87125-6533 You can also renew on our website WWW.ALBUQUERQUE-SISTER-CITIES.ORG using PayPal. If you have questions, contact Dave Bagley at 771-3114 or dave3114@gmail.com.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, July 12 - 14: SCI International Convention—Jacksonville, FL

Monday, July 16: ASCF Board Meeting—Sandia Lab Credit Union—3707 Juan Tabo Blv—5:45 PM—open to all

Thursday, July 19-31: ASCF youth trip to Sasebo, Japan

Tuesday, July 24-August 11: Helmstedt, Germany youth to visit Albuquerque

Friday, August 10: potluck farewell reception for visiting German youth at the Baker’s residence—6 PM. Contact Nathan Young at 977-6033 or nathaneyoung@gmail.com for more information

Friday, September 20-October 1: ASCF trip to Helmstedt, Germany—contact Nathan Young at nathaneyoung@gmail.com or 977-6033 if interested

Tuesday, September 25—October 8: trip to Alburquerque, Spain. If interested contact Eva Gonzales at evagonzales@gmail.com or 296-2572

Thursday, September 27—October 13: two librarians from Ashgabat, Turkmenistan arrive for a visit. If interested in interacting with them, contact Ashgabat chair Oguljan Young at atamuradovna@yahoo.com or 803-0247.

Spring, 2013: Membership trips to Ashgabat and Rehovot. Contact appropriate committee chairs (Oguljan Young or Janice Moranz) if interested.

ASCF Annual Meeting

Enjoying a German beer is Janice Moranz, Rehovot Chair

Enjoying the meal catered by Pepper’s Ole’ are L to R: David Hsi, Lanzhou Chair; Bob Montoya, 1st Vice President and Bob’s wife, Dolores.

Enjoying the buffet are Eva Gonzales, Alburquerque Chair and Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman, Sasebo Chair.
INSIDE THIS ISSUE: ASCF Annual Meeting, Business Women from Turkmenistan visit Albuquerque, Pizza Party to Honor International Students from RoboRAVE