On Saturday, January 16, 2016, ASCF hosted its fourth annual international tea. Free and open to the public, the event was held once again at Manzano Mesa Multi-generational Center. Each of our sister cities featured refreshments and hot drinks reflective of that city. The committee chairs had an opportunity to talk about future plans for their city. Several door prizes were given during the event. Over 90 people were present and expressed how enjoyable the event was. The tradition will continue next year. See pictures below and on page 5.

Did we miss you?
Nathan Young is leading a trip to Helmstedt, Germany June 15—26. The announcement was emailed to members in mid-January. Berlin, Dresden, and Frankfurt, as well as home-stays in Helmstedt, will be featured.

To check on availability, please email Nathan at Nathaneyoung@gmail.com immediately.
Dear Members, as you will see in the announcement for our June 5 Annual Meeting that will highlight the 50 years of partnership with Sasebo, Japan, there will be an election of new officers. I believe it’s time to let others have the wonderful experience I’ve had this past 8 years leading an organization that is truly reflective of the world in which we live. So, I won’t be running for president for a fifth term. With your help and that of my wonderful board we all have and will continue to pursue the mission of sister cities—to promote mutual respect, cooperation, and understanding between our citizens and other people across the world. I believe we have succeeded in building further upon the shoulders of those that have come before us. Though there are many to thank, I hope to do so in person at our Annual Meeting. But, for those who have gone on before us, we are truly grateful for their friendship that lives on through us to others.

I also wanted you to know I have accepted a volunteer appointment by the Sister Cities International organization in Washington D.C. to be the New Mexico State Coordinator/Representative. So, I’ll be around and hopefully be part of all of our efforts across this state to show the world that we take our friendships seriously. When we say “Amigos,” we open our homes and share our lives. ....

And say, “Es con gran placer!!”

Muchas Gracias!!

Richard

Chihuahua Update: on March 30-April 2, Alma Solis, Chihuahua Chair will join Aileen El-Kadi, Menaul School’s International Admissions Director, to meet with Chihuahua officials to discuss student exchanges, including reaching out to students in the Tarahumara community. As in past years, on this trip Alma will be personally delivering jackets, backpacks full of school supplies, and solar lamps to the Tarahumaras—gifts donated by the Half Marathon organization.

Rehovot Update: Shira Greenberg reports that visiting Israeli dancer, Anat Grigorio, was warmly received in her local performances in February and March at Keshet Dance. The Rehovot committee will also be partnering with Water Resources Action Project (WRAP), an environmental peacebuilding project in Israel that installs water harvesting systems at schools in Israel, Palestine, and Jordan. On another note: Rehovot co-Chair Steve Barberio is moving to Washington D.C. and therefore has resigned his position on the board. Taina Benjamin (wife of Zach Benjamin, new Ex. Director of the Jewish Federation of NM), will be taking on the co-chair position and is very excited to get involved.

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From the President’s Desk:
Join us for a tour with visits to Madrid and the town of Baldojz in Extremadura and of course our sister city of Alburquerque where we will celebrate the unveiling of New Mexico artist Frederico Vigil’s fresco at City Hall. Approximate trip description follows:

Depart Monday, August 8, 2016 to Madrid. Arrive in Madrid Tuesday, August 9.

**Madrid highlights inbound (2 days/2 nights):** Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia to see Picasso’s “Guernica.” Tour of the Museo Nacional del Prado, one of the greatest art museums in the world and one of the most visited.

**Days 3, 4, 5 August 11, 12, 13 Thursday –Sunday Alburquerque**

Arrive in Alburquerque and invitation to participate in the unveiling ceremony of Mr. Frederico Vigil’s fresco painted in the City Hall. The Historic International Fresco Sister City Project will be dedicated around 8 p.m. The Fresco (462 sq ft) is located inside the Ayuntamiento in the Beautiful "Salin De Plenos".

Alburquerque, formerly known as Albacuercus in 590 A.C., has been declared one of Spain’s Historic and Artistic Pueblos. Located in the Province of Badajoz, Extremadura, Alburquerque has been inhabited by the Arabs, Celtics, Romans and Visagoths. It has also been conquered by the Portuguese and many speak the ancient language of Castio. The Castillo De Luna (13th century) is one of Spain’s most famous Medieval castles and was declared a National Monument in 1924. Inside the Barrio Medieval, you will go back in time as you visit the ‘Barrio Gotico-Judio’ or ‘Villa Adentro.’

In 1984, The Festival Medieval was developed to celebrate the Three Cultures; Judia, Cristiano, Islámica and in 2002, received the Internacional Prize "Mundo Teatro" as one of the best "Teatro Amateur De La Union Europea and in 2004, declared "Fiesta De Interes Turístico Regional".

**Alburquerque to Madrid Sunday, August 14.** At this point in the trip, some people have expressed an interest in traveling to Portugal, some to Seville and some to return to Madrid for the return trip home. Please express your interest when you communicate to Fred Mondragon at mondragon505@comcast.net.

Subject to change based on interest: The cost of the trip is still being developed, but expect to pay around $3,500 double occupancy, $4,000 single, inclusive of airfare, ground transportation in Spain, hotels, several meals, and some venue entrance fees.
ASCF 2015 Holiday Party

On Sunday, December 13, 2015, ASCF members enjoyed a holiday party at the Red Horse Vineyard Bed and Breakfast. Darlene Capshaw, Inn-Keeper, and her father Carl Londene, long-time members of sister-cities, hosted the event at the newly opened B&B. A delightful luncheon buffet catered by the Range consisted of enchiladas, rice, and beans. Darlene provided the salad, beverages, and the many cookie varieties. Special thanks to Nathan Young for the wine. The Range Café food was paid for by a gift card given to ASCF by the Helmstedt delegation that visited Albuquerque last September.

All enjoyed the pleasant camaraderie and the festive holiday decorations.

Attend ing the Holiday Party from left to right: Oguljan Young (1st V.P. and Ashgabat Chair), Tara and Jose Luis Cruz-Campa (Guadalajara Chair), Rubing and Yu-Lin Shen (Hualien Chair).

Thank you Jose Luis Cruz-Campa for your excellent service as chair of Guadalajara. Editor’s note: Jose has accepted employment in Boston, and has resigned from his position on the board effective March 2016. We will certainly miss him and Tara.

*** Don’t Forget to come May 5 to the Doubletree to be part of an ASCF sponsored event with RoboRAVE. Come meet students from our sister cities and across the world. Hor dourves and beverages provided—free. Location: lower restaurant level at the Doubletree downtown. Time: 6—8 PM

Host: RoboRAVE and ASCF’s Youth Group. For more info, contact Hyunju Blemel hyunju3@hotmail.com. ***
Int’l Tea photos continued

Enjoying the International Tea are several members visiting tables featuring the following sister cities: (from left to right, top to bottom) Helmstedt, Sasebo, Ashgabat, Hualien, Albuquerque, and Lanzhou.

A message from your newsletter editor:

Time has come for me to let another creative individual have the fun of putting together this newsletter 3 to 4 times a year. It has truly been my pleasure to serve you the past 11 years. — Carol Dawley

MUCHAS GRACIAS, CAROL.... Richard Buckler, President
ASCFT ANNUAL MEETING

WHEN: Sunday, June 5, 2016   TIME: 12:30—3:00 P.M.   LUNCH SERVED AT 1 PM
WHERE: Japanese Kitchen Restaurant—Park Square — 6511 America’s Pkwy, Albuquerque, NM  87110
COST:  Members—$10  Non-Members—$20  Pay at door by Check or Cash, unless other arrangements made.
LUNCH includes Teppanyaki style grilled cooking at a shared table. Price include soft-drink of choice or hot tea. Cash bar available.
SPECIAL FEATURES: Information about the November 2016 50th anniversary trip to Sasebo, Japan. Also, students who went to Sasebo in 2015 will report on their experiences.
And, don’t forget there will be Door prizes!!
RSVP to Carol Dawley at crdawley@juno.com or 505-883-9516 by June 2.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS at the Annual Meeting!!
Per our bylaws the ASCF board must present to membership a recommended slate of officers for the new fiscal year. During the March 17, 2016 board meeting the following slate was approved:

President — Oguljan Young
1st V.P. — Pam Feather
2nd V.P. — Carol Dawley
3rd V.P. — Dave Bagley
Secretary — Open
Treasurer — Richard Buckler
*** Per By-Laws, nominations accepted from floor for all positions***

Cultural Opportunity April 18-19 at St. John’s College

Santa Fe World Affairs Forum Hosts 2016 Annual Symposium on “Crisis in Migration: A New World of Walls?”

ASCF member, John Heard, tells us that this year’s symposium will be similar in structure to the previous, well-received symposia, most recently on the subjects of Climate Change (2015) and Diplomacy (2014). SFWAF prides itself on the opportunities offered for intense Q&A engagement with our presenters.

WHEN:  Monday, April 18, 9:30 am to 5:30 pm; Tuesday, April 19, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm
WHERE: St. John’s College, Great Hall, Peterson Student Center
To reserve, please e-mail sfwaforum@outlook.com by Wednesday, April 13.
Fees for the symposium may be paid by check or with your credit card using SFWAF’s Paypal account. http://sfwaf.org/payment/
For more information – CONTACT John Heard – email at johnheard2@msn.com
Free Cultural Opportunity...Open to the Public.
Donations for Zambia Youth Projects will be accepted.

Zambia Extravaganza

Place: New Mexico African American Performing Arts Center

Time: 10:30am-12:30pm

Date: April 16, 2016

There will be live drumming and African foods.
Join Sister Cities Zambia Committee and RoboRAVE International for a Zambian experience that benefits the production of RoboRAVE Africa. In June 2017, New Mexican students will participate in an international robotics competition in Lusaka, Zambia, Albuquerque’s Sister City.

RSVP by April 9, 2016
Patrick Mapalo 505-750-2702
In this edition: Holiday Party, International Tea, Free Zambia Event, Annual Meeting and Election Announcement, Upcoming Trip to Alburquerque

Membership Application

- Adult—Single/Family: $30/$40
- Senior—Single/Family: $15/$20
- Youth (13—20): $10
- Small Business (15 or fewer employees): $100
- Large Business (more than 15): $300
- Approved reciprocal non-profit organization: N/C

- New
- Renewal

Name __________________________
Address ________________________
City, State, Zip __________________
Email __________________________
Phone __________________________

Website: WWW.ALBUQUERQUE-SISTER-CITIES.ORG