

# Oklahoma City International Visitors Council

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Website: [www.ivcokc.org](http://www.ivcokc.org)



“The worst poverty is not to live in a small house, but to live in a small world.”

This Christmas season, look around you and enlarge your world to include others....

NEXT IVC MEETING  
THURSDAY,  
December 2  
11:30 – 1:00  
International House  
Oklahoma City University  
Corner of N.W. 27 & Blackwelder  
297-8973

## December comes but once a year and brings many celebrations ....

Let's get this holiday season started by sharing our favorite goodies and memories. Plan to bring some snacks to share.

We are inviting friends from around the world to share their traditions with us. Hope to see you on the 2<sup>nd</sup> at the International House at OCU.

## Looking ahead to January

Karen Shafer, Executive Director of the Tulsa Global Alliance will be our special guest speaker. She will share with us the international activities that are coordinated through the Global Alliance. This meeting will be held on Thursday, January 6.

## Sister Cities News

- *A delegation from Brazil is expected in OKC December 5 – 11.*
- *In the first weeks of December, 2004, 50 Italian Police Chiefs intend visit Oklahoma City.*

They are traveling to the USA on a two-week, two-city tour, with the first destination city being Oklahoma City. Specifically, they want to learn about the City's experience with the Murrah Building Bombing, our response to it, the lessons we've learned and how our metro police departments currently work to continue to be on guard against terrorism and, in general, how top-notch American police departments such as ours perform their day-to-day crime fighting tasks.

**The trip is being sponsored and organized by Sister Cities International and our local chapter, Sister Cities Okc.** The Chiefs are coming in response to a trip that Sister Cities (Little Rock) made to Italy in May that OKC was asked to participate in. **Apparently the City's publicity campaigns work**—these 50 Chiefs feel that they would have a lot to learn by visiting our city for a week and exploring not only the law enforcement dimensions of our metro area, but also potential business connections as well as university-level educational opportunities in the future for their police commanders.

**The Italian Sister Cities organizer of this tour has personal ties with Win Rockefeller, Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas, who will be helping to organize and host the Chiefs' second week in Little Rock, Arkansas.**

Oklahoma City will be working with city, state & federal agencies and businesses in order to create a week of hospitality, learning, and civic and business networking that will send these folks back to Italy with a strong interest in return visits to take advantage of our educational, tourism and business opportunities that we have worked so hard to create. For more information, contact: **Robert B. Mercer -- Sister Cities, OKC (405) 990-6316**

## **FAA Hosts Large Chinese Delegation**

Volunteers from IVC and Sister Cities helped with this 2-week visit from top level officials within the Transportation Ministry in China. China is gearing up its air transportation system in preparation for the Olympic games to be hosted in a few years.

## **Russian community in OKC growing**

Hope some of you were able to take advantage of seeing the Russian Art featured at the Rose State College Performing Arts Lobby. At the reception, all enjoyed authentic Russian food, and music.

The editor of the Russian-American Business magazine and American-Russian newspaper has moved into our community.

According to Ruth Green, there are now four Russian churches in the area -- the First Slavic Baptist Church, two Russian Orthodox Churches in OKC and a Russian Orthodox Church in Norman.

There are 7-9 new Armenian refugee families from Baku in Oklahoma City?? They need clothes, furniture, jobs, transportation, etc.

Sister Cities reports that a new Russian family has volunteered to become involved with Sister Cities and revitalize the efforts to finalize the Sister City relationship with Ulyanovsk.

## **Opportunities for exchange "Peace Match" – Connecting Classrooms to the World**

Are you a classroom teacher looking for first-hand information on the culture and way of life of people in other countries? Returned Peace Corps Volunteers are eager to share their experiences through the "Peace Match" program, administered by the National Peace Corps Association. You can register as a host at <http://www.PeaceMatch.org> to find new Returned Peace Corps Volunteers in your area who have served where your class is studying.

The National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) is a nonprofit organization based in Washington, DC, comprised of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, former staff, and friends. NPCA looks forward to collaborating with NCIV members in a variety of capacities. For more information, visit <http://www.rpcv.org>.

## **Fulbright Teacher Exchange - Germany**

The Fulbright Teacher and Administrator Exchange is currently looking for teachers (grades 7-12) and two-year college faculty teaching in any field with a connection to Germany to participate in a three-part exchange that will pair exemplary U.S. and German teachers with similar thematic interests.

More information about the program and the application can be found at our website:

<http://www.fulbrightexchanges.org/View/ViewOtherOpps.asp> Deadline -- December 31, 2004.

## **State Department Visitors**

*Counter-terrorism and International Crime - November 21-24.*

Participants include: Prosecutors, Police Special Operations Commanders, Chiefs of Police, a District Attorney and other top officials from Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Their program in OKC, arranged through IVC, included visits with OKC Police Department Chief and officers, a meeting with District Attorney Wes Lane, a visit to the OKC National Memorial Museum, a meeting with Don Hamilton at MIPT, a visit to the OKC Police Academy, and lunch at the Latino Community Development Agency. Thanks to Lt. Robert Mercer for assisting with this program.

*HIV-AIDS and the Family: Africa Regional – December 9 - 14*

OKC is expecting physicians, Family Health Directors, and Program Officers of Children and Women's groups from Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, and Togo.

**Home Hospitality would be welcomed and/or an invite to a church program.**

## **Looking ahead to 2005**

*U.S. Foreign Policy and Counter-terrorism*

In February, OKC has been asked to host a 21 person Multi-regional delegation from Argentina, Colombia, Czech Republic, Germany, Indonesia, Israel, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, and Vietnam. Most of these visitors are news correspondents.