

NEWSLETTER ...February 2004

Oklahoma City

International Visitors Council

Editor – Kay Bickham



"Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted." -
Albert Einstein

NEXT IVC MEETING

THURSDAY,

February 5

11:30 – 1:00

International House

Oklahoma City University

Corner of N.W. 27 & Blackwelder

297-8973

Program for February

Heart to Heart - Sounds like a good name for a program in February – the month of hearts.

However, this organization is not about valentines.... It's all about connections from the **Heart** of America to the **Heart** of Russia. Barby Moore, Director of the OKC office and/or Maya, her assistant will elaborate on their activities and goals.

Since an initial airlift to Moscow 10 years ago, Heart to Heart has grown into a world-class organization that has provided more than \$300 million (U.S. wholesale) in pharmaceuticals and supplies to people in need in more than 100 countries around the world—including the U.S.

Today, Heart to Heart encompasses the work of thousands of volunteers around the world. You can find more information about this organization on their website: www.hearttoheart.org.

Thank you to the FAA for hosting the January IVC Meeting.

Special recognition was given to long time volunteers by Lindy Ritz and Bill Traylor and members of the staff of the international division. Thanks to Melissa and Sonny for coordinating the event.

Thanks to our home hosts

Kathleen Ryan from OCU answered our plea and hosted the environmental visitors from Nigeria and Serbia last month. Kay Bickham and Saundra Vallejo hosted the environmental visitors from Chile, Oman, Romania, and Ethiopia. Melissa Graffigna hosted the assistant to the Chilean Defense Minister

World Neighbors Event

Work of Women sponsors an evening of inspiration as they explore changes in women's lives around the world.

- 7 – 8:30 p.m. February 10 at World Neighbors headquarters – 4127 N.W. 122 Street.
- Speaker – Dr. Cat McKaig.
- RSVP by February 6 to 752-9700 or email to: info@wn.org.

Annual Intercultural Communication and Education Symposium

February 9 – 11 at Rose State College

The theme for the meeting is "*Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education: The next 50 years – moving beyond desegregation toward Interculturalism*".

Keynote speakers include Martin Belsky, Dean of the College of Law – TU; Congressman Tom Cole; Dr. Carlos Cortes, Prof. Of History – U. of Cal. At Riverside and Cheryl Brown Henderson, the daughter of Oliver Brown, the named plaintiff in the Brown vs. Topeka case.

For more information, contact Dr., Shenethia Manuel at 736-0393.

OKC will sign a new Sister City agreement in February

The City of Rio de Janerio will be the 6th Sister City for Oklahoma City. Papers will be signed during the week of February 15th, 2004.

Simon Hsu offers to help create a website for IVC

All thoughts and suggestions are welcomed. What information would you like to have available? Email this to: kbiccum@ionet.net

By the People

NCIV is proud to announce a partner alliance that has just been created with *By the People*. A new initiative of MacNeil/Lehrer Productions, By the People aims to energize and enhance the national conversation on America's role in the world through a series of national and local broadcasts and events that demonstrate the relevance of foreign policy issues to local concerns. The project includes three national PBS specials, two cycles of local programming to be produced by PBS stations in cooperation with community organizations, national and local forums for civic dialogue, and an interactive web site.

The participation of Alliance organizations like NCIV is key to the success of By the People. Alliance organizations are essential to making global concerns locally relevant. Drawing connections between community concerns and international affairs demonstrates that matters of foreign policy are neither abstract nor distant, but truly accessible and, in fact, very close to home.

For more information on By The People, please visit their website at <http://www.by-the-people.org>. More news about NCIV's alliance with By the People, and how you can become involved in this exciting initiative, is forthcoming.

OCU Film Institute – free on Sunday afternoons

2/1/2004, The Cyclist, Mohsen Makhmalbaf, Iran(1989) From Iran comes another film by the director of Kandahar, shown last year to one of the largest crowds in the history of this film institute. The Cyclist falls into the tradition of, *They Shoot Horses Don't They?* Makhmalbaf shows the plight of Afghan refugees in Nassim, the cyclist who must perform the marathon of circling a vacant lot continuously on his bicycle for seven days and nights to pay for his seriously ill wife's medical expenses. Prophetically depicting the plight of Afghans fleeing the Soviet invasion and the US backed Taliban government, Makhmalbaf creates a magnificent symbol for existence that would have been must viewing even before September 11th.

2/15/2004, Behind the Sun, Walter Selles, Brazil(2001)

Director of the Oscar nominated Central Station, Selles brings us another beautiful and critically acclaimed film from Brazil. Blending folklore, fairy tale and myth into a story about family honor, he sets the film on a sugar-cane farm in 1910 and creates something akin to Greek tragedy or the America Western. "This is as close to poetry as cinema gets," Director Anthony Minghella.

2/29/2004, Madadayo, Akira Kurosawa, Japan(1993)

Akira Kurosawa completed Madadayo in 1993, marking fifty years of directing. It turned out to be not only his thir-

tieth film, but also his last. Madadayo pays tribute to another long career, that of a well-loved teacher whose students venerate him annually in his old age at a ritual birthday party where he acknowledges that while death may be near, life goes on. When the students ask if he is ready to die, he responds, "Madadayo" (Not Yet). "In its exquisite and respectful sincerity, Madadayo stands out against both the cynicism and maudlin excess that characterizes so many recent American movies.

Paul Woodruff's *Reverence: Renewing a Forgotten Virtue* will provide direction and reflection for our cross-cultural study of "Renewing the Virtue of Reverence: Becoming Aware of Our Limits and Capacity for Awe." The book will be available at the film showings and Full Circle Bookstore.

Open World Program Expands to Ukraine and Uzbekistan

Washington, DC – The Open World Leadership Center announced in December that it is initiating pilot exchange programs with Ukraine and Uzbekistan, hosting a total of 99 political and civic leaders from the two countries in the United States in December 2003

For more information on this program check out their website: <http://www.openworld.gov/>

OKC participated in the Open World Program last fall when we hosted a group of 5 educators from Russia. Ruth Green Coordinated this program.

Looking forward to March

Sandra Vallejo has invited Lou Barlow, a local businessman to present the program on Thursday, March 4. Lou has visited Israel many times recently and is knowledgeable about conditions in that country. This should be a very interesting program and we look forward to hearing from him.

Anti-Terrorism and International Crime ISSUES

An International Visitor Regional Project for the Western Hemisphere, this group of 18 will be in OKC from February 4 – 7.

The project participants are officials from the executive, legislative and judicial bodies of government, the police and the military, academia, and intelligence related positions.

They are from Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay.

Home hospitality has been requested for either Thursday or Friday nights – February 5 or 6.

The other cities on their itinerary include Washington, D. C., NYC, San Diego and Los Angeles, so OKC is the "small" city included and the only city where home hospitality will be offered.

Please call Kay Bickham at 341-3169.