

NEWSLETTER ... August 2008

Oklahoma City International Visitors Council

Editor – Kay Bickham
Website: www.ivcokc.org



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Life is Short...
They say it takes a minute to find
a special person,
an hour to appreciate them,
a day to love them,
but an entire life to forget them.

NEXT IVC MEETING THURSDAY, September 4

11:00 – 12:30
Ann Lacy Bldg.
Oklahoma City University
Corner of N.W. 24 & Blackwelder
2501 N. Blackwelder
Call 341-3169
for information

*Thank you to Larry Davis for the very in-
formative discussion about current
trends in immigration at the July IVC
Meeting.*

There will not be an IVC
meeting in August.

The next meeting will be on
September 4.

SPEAKER:

Becky O'Dell
Executive Director
Community Literacy Centers, Inc (CLC)
Oklahoma City, OK 73146-0687
Phone 405.524.7323
E-Mail okcread@aol.com
www.communityliteracy.com

students in its various programs.

State Department visitors coming in August

We are expecting 5 visitors from New Delhi, India to be in OKC August 13 – 16. They are university lecturers and researchers in the field of conflict management. ***They would be interested in home hospitality on the evenings of Thursday or Friday, August 14 or 15.*** Please call for more information and bios.

Kay Bickham – 341-3169

Sister Cities International Oklahoma City

**Requests the honor of your presence
At their First Annual
Global Vision Award Ceremony
Honoring
Federal Judge Stephen Friot
Western District Oklahoma
Lunch will be served at
the Petroleum Club
Located at 100 N. Broadway
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
On Aug 6, 2008 at 11:30 a.m.
Followed immediately by Award Ceremony
Guest Speaker
Chief Judge Robert H. Henry
Presentation of Award Deputy Mayor
Larry McAtee**

Please RSVP by calling 634-1436
Cost \$30.00 per ticket
Make checks payable to SCI OKC
All major credit cards accepted

For your calendar

News from Friendship Force....

General Membership Meeting
Sunday, August 17 -- 1:00 p.m.
Santa Fe Presbyterian Church,
1603 North Santa Fe Avenue, Edmond.

New members and others interested in learning about Friendship Force are invited to attend.

Coming this Fall is an outbound trip to Hay River Canada and an inbound group from Olympia, WA.

October 4 -- Global Oklahoma 2008

The 20th annual Global Oklahoma – a festival of cultures—at Rose State College in MWC. The free festival increases awareness and understanding of the many nationalities and cultures which are part of Oklahoma. Activities include exhibits, live entertainment, food, children's activities, youth art contests, and educational displays from local schools. Call Lisa Price if you are interested in exhibiting – 736-0313 or email lprice@rose.edu.

Fall 2008 – University of Oklahoma Institute for US-China Issues

To mark the 30th anniversary of the normalization of US-China relations, OU will host a conference in Norman in October bringing together Chinese and American diplomats and scholars. The Institute convenes lectures and conferences that bring together a broad array of academic, think tank, government and business leaders to discuss specific security concerns in US-China relations. It also hosts visiting scholars and postdoctoral fellows, and facilitates the visits of Chinese delegations in the state of Oklahoma.

OCU's Distinguished Speakers Series will host two notable women during the month of October: Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai and author and scholar Azar Nafisi.

- **Wednesday, October 1, 2008 - 7:30 p.m.**
Wangari Maathai, Nobel Laureate and author of *Unbowed Environment, Democracy and Peace: A Critical Link*. She is recipient of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize, is

recognized worldwide for her work for democracy, human rights, and the environment.

The daughter of farmers from Mount Kenya, Maathai is the first woman in East and Central Africa to earn a doctoral degree. She has taught at universities

throughout the world and founded Kenya's Green Belt Movement, through which women's groups have helped to conserve the environment and improve quality of life by planting more than 30 million trees. At least half a dozen African countries have started similar programs.

Maathai has chaired the National Council of Women of Kenya, served on the U.N. Commission for Global Governance and the Commission on the Future, was elected to Kenya's Parliament, and was appointed as Assistant Minister for the Environment. Time magazine named her as one of the 100 most influential people in the world. In 2006, she received the Legion d'Honneur, France's highest honor. She has received honorary degrees from many institutions, including Yale University and Williams College. She has written two books: her autobiography, *Unbowed*, (2006), and *The Greenbelt Movement: Sharing the Approach and the Experience* (2002).

Prepare yourself for Maathai's lecture. Don't miss the screening of Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai, the 2008 documentary film by Lisa

Merton and Alan Dater. The film will be shown in Kerr-McGee Auditorium at the Meinders School of Business, NW 27th and McKinley, 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 30.

- **AZAR NAFISI, author of *Reading Lolita in Tehran*
Tuesday, October 14, 2008-- 7:30 p.m.**

Henry J. Freede Wellness and Activity Center
NW 27th Street and Florida Avenue

Azar

Nafisi was expelled from the faculty of the University of Teheran in 1981 for refusing to wear the Islamic veil. She returned to teaching in 1987

and left it once again in 1995, when she invited a small group of her female students to weekly sessions at her home, where they studied literary

works considered subversive by the Iranian regime. In 1997, Nafisi left Iran for the United States, where in 2003 she completed her best-selling *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books*, the compelling account of how Iran's Islamic revolution affected her and her students. Five years after its publication, *Reading Lolita* continues to be a worldwide phenomenon.

Nafisi teaches at the Foreign Policy Institute of Johns Hopkins University, where she directs the School of Advanced International Studies Dialogue

Project. Her work investigates the political implications of literature and culture, and the human rights of women and girls. The title of her talk-- ***The Republic of the Imagination***-- is from a book she is writing about the liberating power of literature. She earned her Ph.D. in English and American Literature at the University of Oklahoma.

Did you know

Naturalization ceremonies take place on the last Friday of each month at the Federal Western District Court-house in OKC. These are open to the public to view. In July, more than 1100 new citizens were welcomed by Judge Robin Cauthern.