

NEWSLETTER ... January 2007

Oklahoma City International Visitors Council

Editor – Kay Bickham
Website: www.ivcokc.org



“The past gives us experience and memories; the present gives us challenges and opportunities; the future gives us vision and hope.”

NEXT IVC MEETING THURSDAY, January 4, 2007

11:00 – 12:30
Ann Lacy Bldg.
Oklahoma City University
Corner of N.W. 24 & Blackwelder
2501 N. Blackwelder

297-8973 or 341-3169
for information

Upcoming IVC programs....

January 4 – Dr. Ron Paddack -- Edmond.

Spotlight on Anartica

Dr. Paddack's presentation will focus on his recent trip to Anartica which completes his dream of visiting all continents.

February 1 – Dr. Dennis Dunham – Director of the International Department at the University of Central Oklahoma.

Thanks to all who brought food and music to the December IVC meeting. A special thanks to Phyllis Manning who shared her dance talents with us.

Hope all of you have enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and Holiday season with your friends and loved ones and are looking forward to a brand new year.

Let us think about the following...

From **Sherry L. Mueller, Ph.D.**

President, National Council for International Visitors

The Schizophrenia of the Season

The carols heralding “peace on earth” and significant seasonal celebrations seem at odds with the grim sound bites and graphic images of destruction that dominate the news. In an increasingly turbulent and uncertain world, we feel vulnerable. With an almost desperate wistfulness, we wonder, is there any way that we, as individuals, can help mitigate escalating violence?

In fact, there are many things we can do to be a force for good, as all of the year-end solicitations for various charities remind us.

One of the causes that you can choose to support—perhaps as your gift to your community, our country, and our fragile planet—is citizen diplomacy.

Citizen diplomacy is the concept that individual citizens have the right—even the responsibility—to help shape U.S. foreign relations. Opportunities for American citizens to practice citizen diplomacy come in all shapes and forms, whether it be studying or traveling abroad, welcoming a visitor from another country, or conducting meetings with international colleagues and customers. Millions of Americans can play an important role in shaping U.S. relations with other countries every time they interact with someone across cultures or borders.

Various reputable organizations offer opportunities not only to donate financial resources, but also to provide your time, expertise, and ability to put Uncle Sam's best foot forward by welcoming foreign leaders to your community.

The National Council for International Visitors, Friendship Force International, and Partners of the Americas are but a few prominent examples. If any of you who receive these emails would like to know more about us, you are invited to attend one of our meetings or contact us at the phone numbers on the front of the newsletter.

For your Calendar

OCU Film Institute – 2:00 Sundays (FREE)

January 21 Amarcord – Federico Fellini, Italy at Petree Recial Hall

State Department Visitors to OKC in December and January and beyond.

Oklahoma City hosted a delegation from the Vietnamese Assembly in December. This project for 10 Vietnamese National Assembly members and congressional staffers was to focus on the U.S. legislative process through an in-depth examination of the daily operations of American legislatures at the federal and local level.

Although Vietnam maintains a one-party system, it has witnessed an increase in the powers of its legislature. Its National Assembly has become more active in its legislative work and study of foreign systems and has increasingly accepted greater responsibility for budgetary and auditing affairs. The state department felt that a better understanding of the U.S. legislative system, especially how a congressman best represents his/her constituents, by these National Assembly members and staff would have a significant impact on the Assembly as it seeks to promote capacity building for its members.

Among other appointments, the visitors met with staff people in both Senator Coburn's and Congressman Istook's office.

In January, we will host

Major (Mr.) Jose Carlos Vicente PEREIRA from Lisbon, Portugal.

His present *Positio* is Military Aide, Minister of National Defense. His only previous

trip to the U.S. was to accompany the Minister of Defense for meetings with Secretary Rumsfeld in 2005.

In February, we will host a "multi-regional small business development group".

In April, we will host a Foreign policy and counterterrorism program.

Report from Friendship Force

From Joyce Rulon, outgoing President

2:00 PM, January 7, 2007

Ronald J. Norwick Downtown Library

46th Star Auditorium -- 4th Floor

Free Admission. For more information, Call (405) 606-3879

FRANCE: An Adoring Perspective From Violinist, Kyle Dillingham

Geneva Hancock will share her experiences of traveling and making new friends in France. We appreciate that Darlene Browsers, Metro Library's Adult Education Programmer, has arranged for us to have this great venue for the program. The auditorium has seating for 150 people. Kyle has some surprises in store for his audience.

The next general meeting of Friendship Force will be held:

Sunday, Jan 21, 2007 at 1:00 PM

Santa Fe Presbyterian Church

1603 North Santa Fe Avenue -- Edmond, OK

Bring a finger food to share

Upcoming visits

Brasov and Sibiu, Romania clubs will visit Texas and Oklahoma during the last half of March.

Tokyo, Japan will visit us the second week in October. Both of these exchanges will be fun to host. Exchange Director training will be conducted during the first quarter of 2007.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the January General Meeting for anyone who would like to attend training. Of course, there will be experienced people standing by to help you. If you would like to lead one of these exchanges, please call or E-mail Geneva Hancock, (405) 330-8482 or genhand@swbell.net.

REGIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

January 26-27, 2007 in SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
San Antonio is also discussing a home stay option for a day or two after the conference. More information will be on the web site as "home stay option".

Belo Horizonte, Brazil will visit FFO arriving on May 31, 2007. The Brazilian Ambassadors will take part in the Red Earth Festival on June 1.

