

NEWSLETTER ... January 2009

Oklahoma City International Visitors Council

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Website: www.ivcokc.org



In light of the present financial crisis, it's interesting to read what Thomas Jefferson said in 1802:

'I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies. If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around the banks will deprive the people of all property until their children wake-up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered.' (This is what the American Revolution was REALLY about).

NEXT IVC MEETING THURSDAY January 8, 2009

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

Sorry---- no newsletter was mailed for January. With the holidays, traveling, and just plain ole relaxing, I didn't get around to writing one.

BUT --- hope you all remember that the January IVC meeting will be on January 8 (instead of New Year's Day).

Melissa Graffigna will bring an update of recent Sister Cities' activities including the signing of the Sister City documentation with Ulyanovsk, Russia.

Thanks to Dr. Xiaobing Li

For the very interesting and timely presentation at the December IVC meeting titled:

“China Rising: Friend or Foe.

Among other topics, Dr. Li discussed the four *Ts* of U. S. – China relations...

Trade, Taiwan, Tibet and Technology of the People's Liberation Army. (Military modernization).

He will be leading a tour group to China the first 2 weeks in June. For more information, contact Dr. Li at

bjli@uco.edu

FYI and your calendar

Poetry readings

EVERY MONTH

- **Second Sundays - 2 pm:** Norman Train Depot, 200 S. Jones, Norman, Featured poets.
- **Third Thursdays - 7 pm:** Shawnee-Benedict Street Marketplace, 613 N. Pottenger, Shawnee.
- **Last Sundays - 2 pm:** Full Circle Bookstore, 50 Penn Place, OKC, Featured Poets + Open Mic, OKC.
- **Fourth Fridays - 7:30 pm:** IAO Gallery, 811 N Broadway, Downtown OKC. Featured Poets + Open Mic.

Scandinavian Club Meets at HomeTown Café (3900 N.W. 63rd St.) on the 2nd Thursday evening of each month. Call 525-0600 for details. Members of this club trace their heritage back to one of the Scandinavian Countries—Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway or Sweden.

International Folk Dancers meet at the 1st Unitarian Church on Monday evenings. All are welcome.

February 11-14, 2008

NCIV National Meeting in Washington, DC

Sister Cities' Eastern Europe Spring Festival at St. Luke's Methodist Church
Watch for more information!

July 28-August 2, 2009

Belfast, Northern Ireland

Sister Cities International Youth Conference 2009

OCU Film Institute – Sundays at 2:00 P.M.

Free Admission – Discussion sessions follows each film.

January 25 – Paris, Texas (Petree Recital Hall). Winner of the Grand Prize at the Cannes Film Festival in 1984. The story of a man found wandering aimlessly along the Texas-Mexican border and his struggle to discover and rebuild his shattered life.

Tribute to World Neighbors

World Neighbors founder Dr. John L. Peters once said, "***And World Neighbors shall continue to be a person-centered program. For unless the individual is inspired, all the schemes designed for his improvement are destined to fail. Only that program which can speak to him completely and directly, with respect and concern, but without condescension or paternalism, can house him, challenge him. We need only to go out to serve rather than to sell, to demonstrate rather than to denounce.***"

Dr. Peters' quote sums up World Neighbors philosophy, still holding true after more than 57 years of investing in people. Today, 1.4 million children die each year from lack of access to clean water, 800 million people go to bed hungry everyday and 529,000 women die from complications related to pregnancy or childbirth a year. And these are the people whom World Neighbors has helped transform - more than 25 million people around the world since 1951.

Just in case you have ever wondered:

What is the difference between development and relief work?

Relief generally focuses on external aid and addresses the symptoms of a problem rather than looking at the root causes of problems to create lasting change. Relief is a short-term fix and focuses mainly on individual needs, causing people to become dependent and preventing them from finding lasting and sustainable solutions to their problems. Relief is often necessary when there are manmade or natural disasters, but it does not ensure long-term development.

Development is about people and changing their ability to work together to solve their own problems with the resources they already have on hand. Development addresses root causes, develops long-term solutions and social change and empowers communities. At World Neighbors, we do not hand money to poor people to alleviate their poverty but instead focus on ensuring they are self-reliant for the long term.

Citizen Diplomacy

Citizen Diplomacy is the concept that the individual has the right, even the responsibility, to help shape U.S. foreign relations, "one handshake at a time." Citizen diplomats can be students, teachers, athletes, artists, business people, humanitarians, adventurers or tourists. They are motivated by a responsibility to engage with the rest of the world in a meaningful, mutually beneficial dialogue.

Become more involved, and use this web site <http://uscenterforcitizendiplomacy.org/> as an individualized pathfinder to citizen diplomacy. Check out the blog and the calendar.

January Birthdays...

January 1, 1735- Paul Revere, Revolutionary War.

January 1, 1752- Betsy Ross,

January 1, 1895- J. Edgar Hoover, FBI Director

January 1 -- Kay Bickham

January 3, 1892- J.R.R. Tolkien, Author of "Lord of the Rings"

January 4 – Ray Crooks

January 6, 1412- Joan of Arc

January 8, 1935- Elvis Presley, King of Rock 'n Roll

January 12, 1944- Joe Frazier, heavyweight boxing champion

January 14, 1741- Benedict Arnold, traitor

January 15th, 1929- Martin Luther King Jr.,

January 16, 1909- Ethel Merman, Singer

January 17, 1706- Benjamin Franklin, inventor, statesman,

January 17, 1899- Al Capone, notorious 1920's gangster

January 17, 1942- Mohammad Ali, formerly "Cassius Clay",

arguably the best ever heavyweight boxing champion

January 18, 1782- Daniel Webster, politician and speaker

January 19, 1807- Robert E. Lee, Civil War Confederate Army General

January 19, 1809- Edgar Allan Poe, Author and Poet, most notably horror stories

January 19, 1946- Dolly Parton, country western singer