

NEWSLETTER ...May 2009

Oklahoma City International Visitors Council

Editor – Kay Bickham
Website: www.ivcokc.org



Thought for the day...

Human beings are the only creatures who laugh and weep; they are the only ones who are struck by the difference in what things are, and what they ought to be.

NEXT IVC MEETING THURSDAY, May 7, 2009

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

Call 341-3169
for information

Thank you to David Drexler and Jim Story for the interesting story about the ancient game of "GO" at the April IVC meeting....and for the lesson on how to play.

Go is a fascinating board game that originated in China over 4,000 years ago. Today it is played by millions, including people in the US, Europe, Japan, China, Taiwan, and Korea. Go is far more popular in Asia than chess is in the west.

Go is a game of logic and strategy that is both simpler and more sophisticated than chess. Besides being fun, teachers and parents report that kids who play Go get better math and English scores, possibly because of how playing Go exercises the brain.

OKC Go Club

Meets: Wednesday 7:00 pm - 9:45 pm
Borders Bookstore (NW Expressway & May)
Contact: Jim Story - jim@oklahoma-go-players.org
The Oklahoma Go Players Association website--
<http://Oklahoma-go-players.org>

Program for May 7

Dear IVC members:

A few weeks ago I had the joy of meeting a most amazing person. Her name is Kathryn Pih, an 88 year old lady from the Peoples Republic of China. We sat at the same dinner table and I was intrigued with her life story. Kathryn has held important position in medical research in Oregon, Illinois, Louisiana, Minnesota, New York, New Jersey, and Oklahoma. Her father and the father of our famous Oklahoma researcher, Dr. Tang, were actually good friends. Kathryn has one son who lives in Scotland.

As the evening progressed and my respect for this dinner companion grew, I felt this charming lady should be shared with others. Thus the idea of inviting her to IVC began to germinate. Her life and her strong faith makes for a most interesting story. Her love of Oklahoma is heart-warming. I encourage all of you to come to IVC on Thursday, May 7 and you will agree with me that she is one of the most delightful characters you have ever met.

Best Wishes, Ron Paddack

U.S. State Department

Visitors to Oklahoma City

April 23 – 26 – Combating International Crime

Twelve visitors from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Kuwait, Maldives, and Pakistan.

May 20-23 – Community Support for Youth Engagement... A Project for Ukraine

Five visitors involved with working with *at risk youth*. (aren't all youth at risk?) They will be traveling with 2 State Department interpreters.

June 6- 10 – U.S.- Middle East Security Issuesa Project for Yemen.

Five Parliamentarians and two Journalists from Yemen.

Traveling with 2 State Department interpreters.

Anyone interested in helping with the programs or meeting any of the visitors should contact Kay Bickham 341-3169. Home hospitality is always welcomed and is a highlight for the visitors (and hosts).

What is the WOW!

(Work of Women) program at World Neighbors?

WOW! (Work of Women) is a membership organization at World Neighbors that is committed to improving women's lives in poor, rural villages throughout the world. By joining together in this work, our individual efforts are multiplied and truly create change. WOW! mobilizes members to support efforts that improve the lives of women and their families in the villages with which World Neighbors partners, doing this through member education and awareness raising, advocacy and involvement activities and financial donations from members. All membership fees and donations support the vital work of World Neighbors around the world. Learn more about WOW! @ www.workofwomen.org.

Interested in Travel?

Friendship Force members have connections with other FF clubs around the world that OKC members have the opportunity to take advantage of. A couple of recent announcements

- FFO members, there are places available with Olympia, WA to Korea and Japan in October and to Japan with FF Houston in November. Anyone interested can contact: bethe-den1898@yahoo.com for more details. Deposits are due ASAP.
- The Friendship Force clubs of Greater Milwaukee and Chicago are hosting a unique Eco-exchange, a new theme being introduced by Friendship Force. This economical, adventurous exchange will offer participants a view of great "Outdoor Wisconsin" and how the Midwest cherishes the environment. From September 9 to 22, 2009, please consider joining us in Chicago and Milwaukee for outdoor activities (sailing, hiking, canoeing, etc) during one of our most beautiful seasons, followed by several days at a northern lake home or a rustic cottage. For more information, contact: davekaplan@sbcglobal.net

Joyce Rulon wants us to know about:

Lisa Curl, a friend of Kyle Dillingham's. Lisa sings, writes her own music and plays the guitar. She is a grade school teacher and has gigs in her spare time. <http://lisacurl.com/>

- Friday, May 1st -- Full Circle Books -- 50 Penn Place 7-9 PM The Lisa & Laura Show!
- Saturday, May 9 -- Buy 4 Less Grocery 12:30 & 4:30 PM Lisa & Laura**
- Saturday, May 16 -- Full Circle Books 7-9PM Lisa Curl & Aaron Seamer (of the Gardes)
- Friday, May 22 -- D's Pub Sheridan 7:30 pm-9:30 PM
- Saturday, May 23-- Full Circle Books 7-9 PM Lisa Curl

And from Tweet Coleman...

Good News: I have been selected for the position of Senior FAA Representative in London, England. My portfolio includes 15 countries, a dream job. I hope you will come and visit us in Merry Olde England.

Celebrating Citizen Diplomacy

The National Council for International Visitors (NCIV) was founded in 1961 as the National Council for Community Services to International Visitors (COSERV). Now, after five decades of pursuing its mission of promoting excellence in citizen diplomacy, the staff and Board of Directors at NCIV are pleased to report that preparations are underway to celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2011.

The plans for the 50th Anniversary are focused in two directions: looking back to reflect on the past and looking forward to plan for the future. We are excited to take this opportunity to celebrate the illustrious work our members and volunteers have done to foster mutual understanding between the United States and the rest of the world for the past half-century. Our notable past, however, is a strong foundation for future pursuits. Consequently, we are using the 50th Anniversary as a launching pad to explore the ways NCIV and the NCIV Network can continue to grow and evolve in the 21st century. As new connections are constructed between the individuals and nations of the world every day, NCIV and citizen diplomacy are more relevant than ever before.

Goals include:

- Continuing to build leadership capacity at local and national levels. We aim to position NCIV for major accomplishments in the next half century, to ensure strong multi-generational leadership, and to encourage each member organization to conduct a leadership audit;
- Raising visibility and recognizing achievements; and
- Increasing resources, including new members and supporters.

NCIV Book Project

One of the major initiatives to support these goals is the development of a new NCIV publication, *The Power of Citizen Diplomacy*. The new publication will chronicle and celebrate NCIV's accomplishments during our first five decades. It will include an introduction, an essay relating NCIV to the citizen diplomacy movement in the United States, success stories, and letters from Ambassadors, alumni, and volunteers.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Please describe how your role as volunteer for the CIV has facilitated fruitful connections between you and with the international exchange program alumni that you have met over the years; comment on the types of connections you have established and on the impact of these connections on you, your family and your community.

Send your stories to me: kaybickham@sbcglobal.net and I will send them to NCIV to be included in this book. Thanks.