

Oklahoma City International Visitors Council

Editor – Kay Bickham



"For every one person who succeeds by stubbornly holding course, ten will succeed by knowing when to shift gears and change course."

NEXT IVC MEETING
THURSDAY,
March 4, 2004
11:30 – 1:00
International House
Oklahoma City University
Corner of N.W. 27 & Blackwelder
297-8973

Program for March...

Focus on Israel

The country of Israel and its relationship with neighboring countries continues to make headlines in the world and is close to the hearts of many Oklahomans.

Lou Barlow is a local businessman and Education Consultant with Barlow & Associates. He has spent considerable time in Israel. He will discuss his impressions of the current conditions of the country.

Thanks to Sandra Vallejo for inviting Mr. Barlow to speak.

Thanks to "Heart to Heart"

And to Barby Moore, Director of the OKC International Office, for the interesting presentation at the February meeting.

This organization began 10 years ago by air-lifting medical supplies to Russia and 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.

German-American Exchange

Nancy Barnum, a German teacher at Classen School of Advanced Learning is needing financial assistance for lunches for 25 German students who will be attending classes at Classen for 2 weeks during March. The students are part of the German-American Exchange. They will be staying in area homes while attending class. The estimated cost for lunches is \$750. If you know any businesses or individuals who would be able to assist, call Ms. Barnum at 556-5070.

The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 16, 2004, at 7:00PM at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1800 NW 36th, in Okla. City, OK. The program, "The Odyssey of the Bucholz Family" will be presented by Don Douglas, a member of the our society. For additional information please call Lillian Larwig at 405-525-3218.

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

Status & Future of Minorities' Civil Rights in Oklahoma

LULAC is sponsoring a civil rights conference on Saturday March 6 from 7:30 to 4:30 at Oklahoma City Community College. Workshops will focus on Issues in Law Enforcement, preservation of Culture and language, issues in higher education, representation in Oklahoma Politics and undocumented immigrants' access to educational benefits.

The cost is \$60. For more information, contact Rey Madrid at 520-5147.

Hispanic Health Fair

More than 30 agencies will provide health, wellness and service information. Sponsored by Integris Health and the American Red Cross

Saturday April 24 – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Crossroads Mall – OKC

Free Health Screenings for blood pressure, diabetes, cholesterol, and immunizations.

OCU Film Institute –

free on Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m. in the Petree Auditorium. This is this last of 8 presentations for the year.

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

thirtieth 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.

Evaluations from South/Central America...

We received the following note from the State Department about the recent visitors from the Western Hemisphere – their program centered on Counter-Terrorism.

"The group was universal in its assessment that the visit to Oklahoma City offered a wonderful opportunity to meet and speak with Americans from the Heartland, and they were deeply impressed by the warmth and graciousness of their hosts in this city. The group thought that their meeting with Professor Steven Sloan, from the University of Oklahoma, was the most stimulating and exciting meeting of the entire (U.S.) program. In Oklahoma City, the group also experienced home hospitality, which obviously left a profoundly touching and personal mark on each and every one of the participants."

OKC signs Sister City Agreement with Rio de Janeiro

39 delegates spent a week in Rio during February to formalize the Sister City agreement with Rio. The OKC delegation included the Sister City Rio committee, headed by Larry Edwards and Melissa Graffigna. Also participating were Acting Mayor Guy Liebman and Lt. Governor Mary Fallin. OKC representatives made connections with counterparts in several business areas including the oil and gas industry as well as the arts, education and culture. OKC was hosted by the American Consul Mark Boulware and his wife Nora Jean who both have ties with Oklahoma and Texas.

Sister Cities Inc. is all about partnerships

Puebla: SCI OKC is facilitating this exchange with the officials in Puebla and the OKC Police Department.

The group includes: Lt Robert Mercer (OKC Police), Ed Martin (Weeds & Seeds Program Mgr), Michael Brooks Jimenez (President, Latino Community Development Agency), Paul Burkhart (Hispanic Program OSU), Patricia Brooks (OCCC). They are discussing an exchange between Police Officers of both cities into language immersion schools.

China: *Love without Boundaries Partnership with SCI OKC and Haikou:*

This is a National Pilot Program for Sister Cities International. Since SCI OKC has a Sister City relationship with a city in China that also has an orphanage in need, we are a perfect fit for the pilot. Ms. Amy Eldridge, President of Love without Boundaries will travel to China and meet with the orphanage director in Haikou in February. There are over 100 children in their orphanage, many with cleft lips and heart conditions. She is very excited about receiving possible assistance from the people of Oklahoma City and making a direct impact on those children's lives. The goal is to get every U.S. City with a Sister City in China to raise funds for orphanages in their China City like we are for Haikou. More to come on **this project**.

Haikou China: *QiongZhong Desk Presentation -- Dec 31, 2003 report from Melissa Graffigna*

Finally, New Classrooms -- new desk, chairs, blackboard, podium, windows, doors and freshly painted walls. The teachers and students were overwhelmed with the new look that their classroom received. New pencil boxes for the Li Minority Students too! The students took great pleasure in opening their surprise gifts. We purchased a metal pencil box and filled it with small supplies, i.e. five pencils, an eraser, pen, ruler and a pencil sharpener. They were really very excited. OKC Sister Cities raised the money to partner with ieea, an English Language school in Haikou to complete this project. It was over a year long project, starting with raising the money, to finding the right builders in China, getting permission from the Education Board, finding the right kind of lumber and craftsman to finally actually do the building, painting, replacing and repairing of all of the items. An "Official" presentation took place on Dec 31, 2003. And although no one from SCI OKC could be present, our friends from iees were there and took lots of pictures that are available for viewing at www.clubphoto.com. Find the search bar in the middle of the page and type in ieea; then select the photo album titled "QiongZhong". You will be duly impressed by the before and after photos.