

Oklahoma City International Visitors Council

Editor – Kay Bickham
Website: www.ivcokc.org



*“Happiness is not a destination.
Happiness is a way of traveling...”*

NEXT IVC MEETING THURSDAY, March 3

Ann Lacy Bldg. – 2nd floor
Oklahoma City University
Corner of N.W. 24 & Blackwelder
2501 N. Blackwelder
11:30 – 1:00

297-8973 or 341-3169
for information

*** Please Note ***

NEW LOCATION FOR IVC MEETINGS

The Farmer International House is being closed for remodeling into offices, but OCU has found us a new place to meet each month. Beginning in March we will meet in the Bishop Blake Conference Room on the 2nd floor of the Ann Lacy Building. It is located next to the International office.

There is an elevator and parking is available behind the building.

Because of continued construction on Blackwelder, we suggest you enter Blackwelder from the south off of N.W. 23rd Street.

Come check us out. I understand this is a beautifully appointed conference room and we are fortunate to be invited to meet here. Thanks to Lois Crooks and David Yee for making the arrangements.

Hope to see you on Thursday.

Thank you Priscilla Harris

Your input/insight was very helpful as we consider the possible merger of IVC-OKC with Sister Cities. As both of these organizations have been very successful for many years in their own right, we should move carefully as we consider a different format. We would like to form an ad hoc “committee” to begin to look at the possibilities of such a group. If you have suggestions, please contact Melissa 954-9305 or Kay at 341-3169.

Speaker for March meeting.

What a treat!! Dr. Ann Lacy (herself) will be our special speaker for the March IVC meeting. Dr. Lacy is a OCU Trustee and former President of the Oklahoma Writers Association. She is the author of five books with subjects ranging from cats to fashion. She is the founder of the OCU Books Festival – the 2nd annual book festival will be held on May 21 at OCU. Several years ago Dr. Lacy flew around the world on the Concord. Later she wrote a book by this title. This will be the topic she will speak on. So plan to come to the meeting and see the new room and meet the lady who made it possible.

Kenyan church services

Beatrice Ochieng is working to organize a group called the Pamoja Ministry for Kenyans and other internationals who would like to worship in their native style. They have been meeting twice a month in the clubhouse at City Church – 333 NW 5th. Call Beatrice at 2009-5438 for more information.

UCO Internationals showcase World Neighbors’ Work of Women

WOW! Party in celebration of International Women’s Day – The community is invited.

The Community Health program within the Department of Kinesiology & Health Studies will join together with the International Student Council (ISC) to celebrate International Women’s Day with a WOW! party on Monday, March 7 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in Ballroom C at the Nigh University Center (3rd floor). International students will represent their countries, selling artifacts and speaking on the work of women in their area. International dancers, a silent auction, and other activities will be available to raise money for WOW! and spread awareness about the work of international women.

Although WOW! parties will be held throughout the nation in celebration of International Women’s Day, this will be the only party taking place on a university campus. WOW! is a program through World Neighbors working with the rural poor in Asia, Africa and Latin America to strengthen the ability of individuals and communities to solve their own problems of

hunger, poverty and disease. For more information on WOW! and World Neighbors visit www.workofwomen.org. For more information on UCO's WOW! party, please contact Sunshine Cowan at 974-5238 or jcowan1@ucok.edu.

State Department Visitors

Much appreciation to many of you who helped with the large (22 people) multi-regional group of Foreign Policy and Counter-terrorism visitors who were in OKC last week. They were hosted by Ed Corr at the International Programs Center in Norman, by Kari Watkins at the Memorial, by Jo Ann Terrill for dinner, by Representative Marian Cooksey at the State Capitol as well as several professional appointments. Congressman Ernest Istook and his wife Judy joined the group for the Homeland Security meeting. This group included media and security officials from 20 countries.

Coming soon....

March 9 - 12 Ms. Anna Magdalena Janczak

Senior Specialist, Office of International Affairs, Presidential Chancellery and the Polish Permanent Mission to the Office of UN in Geneva

March 9 – 12 Elementary and Secondary Education Project. Participants from Lebanon, Lithuania, Nigeria, Peru and Saudi Arabia.

March 15 – 19 Leadership Development for Women. Participants from Bahrain, Hungary, Iraq, Mauritania, and Singapore.

April 16 – 20 Grassroots Democracy Project for Francophone Africa.

May 11 – 14 International Security and Global Cooperation.

June – Responding to Natural Disasters.

Please call if you can help with any of these groups. We need program appointments and home hospitality. Kay – 341-3169 or Melissa – 954-9305

Hispanic Health Fair

The 17th Annual Hispanic Health Fair will be held on Saturday, April 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Crossroads Cathedral, located at 8901 South Shields in Oklahoma City. INTEGRIS Health and the American Red Cross have sponsored this event since its inception in 1988.

The Hispanic Health Fair is open to the public and will feature more than 80 program and service

vendors, free health screenings and information such as diabetes education, health and wellness education, cancer, cholesterol, blood pressure and glucose screenings. At last year's event, more than 1,200 people attend.

Russian Art and Music at the new Downtown Library

Approximately 500 people attended this event on Sunday afternoon February 13 – there were three performances of "The Moscow Nights" musical presentation. The desserts were delicious - the tables were beautiful. And the number of displays just kept growing! IVC and Sister Cities were invited to be included as sponsors of the afternoon and informational brochures were available. In addition to the several statewide television broadcasts with a brief interview about the event, publicity was done in the Gazette. A newspaper article and photograph has been done about the cooking of the Russian ladies.

The library has obtained first executive level approval to pursue the possibilities of a sister library relationship. Mr. Platoshkin, the 2nd Russian Deputy Consul was in attendance from Houston. He had several appointments the next day with various city officials and organizations.

Mr. Platoshkin was escorted to the library event by Timothy Crawford, who works in summer Russian youth camps. Mr. Platoshkin informed each group that Houston was participating in a "Year of Russia" by sending business men to Russia at their own expense for travel to Russia and hospitality while there provided at Russian expense.

The Deputy Consul requested the OU Child Study Center to do a study on the condition of Russian children who have been adopted in America - in order to dispel concerns in Russia and perhaps increase these adoptions and improve their supervision. Also, the Child Study Center will increase their work to develop child abuse and neglect programs in Russia.

Also, mention was made of the Russian people (and those who were a part of the USSR) who participated in the settlement of the Oklahoma territory. Did you know that the red wheat came from Russia? And the sunflower came from Russia to Kansas and then to Oklahoma.

Thanks to Ruth Green for coordinating.

Looking for performance opportunities

A 9 member troupe with beautiful costumes and unique instruments would like to perform folk music and dancing. They will perform for contributions, or a percentage, with the objective of assisting a Russian orphanage. Anyone interested should contact Ruth Green – 641-1333

