

NEWSLETTER ... October 2004

# Oklahoma City International Visitors Council

Editor – Kay Bickham  
Website: [www.ivcokc.org](http://www.ivcokc.org)



“Life, to most of us, is a continuous process of getting used to things we had not expected.”

“Nothing dies quicker than a new idea in a closed mind.”

**NEXT IVC MEETING**  
**THURSDAY,**  
**October 7, 2004**  
**11:30 – 1:00**  
**International House**  
Oklahoma City University  
Corner of N.W. 27 & Blackwelder  
**297-8973**

## Program for October

Jeff Hamilton is an ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.) He is currently Associate Minister of the First Christian Church of Oklahoma City. In addition to his duties with his congregation he serves as the President of the Interfaith Alliance of Oklahoma, which is a non-partisan, clergy-led grassroots organization dedicated to promoting the positive, healing role of faith in civic life and challenging intolerance and extremism. There are over 150,000 members of the Interfaith Alliance nationwide, drawn from more than 50 religious traditions. The Interfaith Alliance of Oklahoma includes representative from Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, and non-traditional religious groups.

Hamilton will be speaking on the theme: “Interspirituality: A Shift in the Religious Paradigm”. He sees a change taking place in religious understanding that may lead to a new global culture that values diversity, dialogue, non-violence, compassion and justice.

Jeff Hamilton served eight years in the Oklahoma House of Representatives from 1986-1994 from Midwest City. During his time in the House, he served as chair of the Joint House and Senate Committee on International Development, chair of the House Health/ Mental Health Committee and served on the Education committee and the Appropriations Committee. He helped establish the event known as “International Student Awareness Day” at the Capitol and initiated legislation that established the Oklahoma Council on Violence Prevention, a public health approach to violence prevention. He also co-authored the AIDS Prevention Education legislation. He received several distinguished service awards for his work on behalf of children and youth.

## A special thanks to:

*Melanie Macdonald -- President and Chief Executive Officer of World Neighbors, Inc. for the presentation at the September IVC meeting.*

And thank you to Lois Crooks for chairing the meeting in the absence of Melissa.

## September events...

Hope you were able to enjoy some of these events. OKC’s diverse community shares so many activities, it’s become impossible to know about all of them.

- ❖ Labor Day’s annual art festival at OCCC.
- ❖ Latino Community Development Agency – 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Recognition Luncheon
- ❖ Diez y Seis Fiesta celebrating Mexican Independence Day.
- ❖ Rosh Hanshana (Jewish New Year)
- ❖ Global Fusion – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday International Networking event sponsored by Sister Cities. COCINA DE MINO, 6022 S. Western.

## Department of State visitors

**September 29 – October 2 -- U.S. POLISH COOPERATION ON NATO AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Mr. Adam BUGAJSKI**

NATO Desk Officer

**Ms. Joanna JUREWICZ**

Third Secretary -- Security Policy Department

**Ms. Joanna STEMPINSKA**

Deputy Director-Security Policy Department

**Mr. Ziemowit WALIGORA**

Chief expert - Defense Planning Branch

## For your calendar

**Global Oklahoma – Saturday, October 2**

At Rose State University. IVC and Sister Cities will be sharing a booth. Helpers are needed. Can you spare a couple of hours to assist? It’s a fun event – lots of foods and entertainment from all over the world.

**Oklahoma City University’s Film Institute**

2:00 p.m. Sundays at Petree Ricital Hall at the Kirkpatrick Fine Arts Center – Free admission

The theme this year is “Beyond Polarization: The Transformative Power of Reconciliation.” A discussion session follows each film for those who wish to stay.

**October 3 – Good Bye, Lenin** – (Wolfgang Becker, Germany 2003) East Germany before and after the Berlin Wall falls. “A witty, thought-provoking and ultimately moving tragicomedy”. Rating R.

**October 17 – The Son** (Luc and Jean-Pierre Dardenne, Belgium 2002) It follows a man in mid-life who teaches teenage boys at a vocational training center in a French suburb. “A must see film. It is simplicity, depth, maturity and silence in a film that sounds in the echo-chambers of the heart.”

**October 31 – Honey for Oshun** (Humberto Solas, Cuba (2001) A glimpse of contemporary Cuba in this comic and heartwarming story about a Cuban exile who returns. Rating R.

**October 15 – 7:00 p.m. Fundraiser for World Neighbors -- WorldFest Market Preview Party** at The Will Rogers Event Center NW 43<sup>rd</sup> and N. Western. Roam through exotic village markets and shop for hand-crafted treasures, bid on festive silent auction items, while dining on exotic foods and sipping international libations, all to the beat of world music. \$75 per person. *Watch for Other October festivals.... Asian, Greek, Czech*

## **International Education Week 2004**

### **November 15 - 19, 2004.**

The International Education Week (IEW) 2004 web site has been launched at <http://exchanges.state.gov/iew/>. International Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. In 2003, IEW was celebrated in more than 85 countries. This joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education is part of our effort to promote programs that prepare Americans for global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences in the United States. We encourage the participation of all individuals and institutions interested in international education and exchange activities, including schools, colleges and universities, embassies, international organizations, businesses, and associations, and community organizations. To submit your IEW events, go to [http://65.113.70.41/iew/iew/?fuseaction=add\\_event1](http://65.113.70.41/iew/iew/?fuseaction=add_event1), to join the IEW mailing list <http://exchanges.state.gov/iew/involved/maillinglist.htm>.

### **Gansu (China’s “sister state” with Oklahoma) seeks partners for major projects.**

During recent meetings with Gansu officials of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) The State Chamber was presented with a report entitled “*Compilation of the Main Cooperative Projects*” planned for their province. The report, covering more than one hundred pages, outlines specific projects that Gansu is looking to include investors, builders, contractors and partners. These projects include:

- Infrastructure needs - water supply, road construction, sewage treatment plants and hydropower
- Manufacturing assistance – cable manufacturing, PDP plasma display, vacuum freeze-dry food production, steam valve manufacturing and natural gas heat transformation devices
- Agriculture industrialization – yak and sheep slaughtering/processing facility, juice production line and wine production
- Biological pharmacy & comprehensive utilization of Chinese traditional medicine materials – tuberculosis pill production and Chinese traditional medicine pill, construction of Chinese herbal medicine industry base, development of yellow ginseng and the biological products of white yak
- Tourism – construction of biological tour pilot park, tour development of Maying Mountain, tour development of the Yellow River Rock Forestry and Wufoyan Temple and other locations.

Anyone interested in reviewing the list of projects should go to The State Chamber’s website at [www.okstatechamber.com](http://www.okstatechamber.com) and clicking on the front-page story marking The State Chamber’s historic agreement signing.

### ***YMCA International Food and Entertainment Festival***

on October 15, 2004, at Leadership Square in the Atrium. The event will begin at 11:00 a.m. and end at 1:30 p.m. The YMCA will have twelve (12) food booths, serving food from the following countries: Brazil, Scotland, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Mexico, Czech Republic, and the USA. Some of the participating restaurants are: Bourbon Street Café, Café Do Brasil, Old Germany Restaurant, Orient Express, Yukon Czech Committee, Gopuram Taste of India, Chelino’s, McLaren’s Pantry, Leo’s Bar B Que, Quizno’s, Blair Vending and Coffee, and Eureka Water Company.

Entertainment and a silent auction will also be featured at the event. Dancers, singers and musicians from Oklahoma City Public Schools will be performing. A silent auction will feature sports items, bed and breakfast stays, golf outings, a private Christmas Lights showing from an air flight, a Fly Away Package for Four, and a Lake Eufaula Getaway Weekend.

Passports (tickets) are available for a \$10 donation to the YMCA . A passport includes lunch, a drink and an opportunity for a prize drawing.

A passport booth will be located in the Leadership Square Atrium on October 13 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The funds raised from this event will support the work of the YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City and the YMCA Mexican Federation, providing youth shelters in Juarez and Piedras Negras, Mexico. Youth 8-18 years of age are provided housing, food, medical treatment, and clothing until they can be reunited with their families. The YMCA also supports a YMCA elementary school in Valparaiso, Chile, with an annual donation of \$1,000.

For more information or to order tickets by mail, call Stan Barton at 297-7727. Passports may also be purchased at any YMCA Branch.

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