



SILK ROAD ADVENTURES

TUCSON-ALMATY SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

The mission of Tucson-Almaty Sister Cities Committee is to promote and develop people-to-people diplomacy between the citizens of Tucson, Arizona, and Almaty, Kazakhstan, through educational, cultural and economic relationships.

July 2008

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Silk Road Adventures is a proprietary publication of the Tucson-Almaty Sister Cities Committee. Editor/composer Jerry Gary, 520-886-1260.

TASCC ELECTS OFFICERS FOR FY 2008-2009



Chuck Yungkurth, an engineer with Raytheon Missile Systems in Tucson, was elected Chairman at the May meeting of TASCC. He will assume duties effective July 1, 2008. Chuck and wife Stacy, along with their two sons, lived in Kazakhstan for three years and carry a deep and abiding respect for things Kazakhstani. He wants to take our committee to the next level of development, meaning he will dedicate himself to getting Tucson acquainted with what this committee has done, is doing and will do in our sister city of Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Anton Vanderwyst, a physicist at Raytheon Missile Systems in Tucson will assume the position of 1st Vice Chairman of TASCC effective July 1st. Anton has become acquainted with many of the Bolashak students currently studying at the University of Arizona.

Sally Gary, Secretary

Jerry Gary, Treasurer



Sister Cities International Meetings

July 16-19, 2008 Kansas City, Missouri
July 29-August 1, 2009 Belfast, Ireland
July 29-31, 2010 Albuquerque, New Mexico

To catch the true spirit of Sister City programming, you need to attend at least one annual conference.

The Bulletin Board

KAZAKHSTAN JUDICIARY

Four members of the Kazakhstan judiciary were in Tucson April 19-26, 2008

TUCSON ARIZONA BOYS CHORUS

Tucson's goodwill ambassadors are in Almaty as this is being written for performances before SRO crowds.

Watch www.tucson-almaty.info

FUTURE OPEN WORLD PROGRAMS

AED has announced grant opportunities available in October 2008 in the areas of Public Health, Women Leadership in Technology and in Law. Saumya VanderWyst and Jerry Gary are in charge of pursuing Women Leaders and Public Health

TASCC / TEACH FOR FRIENDSHIP

On July 7th, TASCC member Dan Davidson and teacher Karen Loquvam will leave for an English teaching stint in Kazakhstan in the town near Ust-kamenogorsk. They will spend several days in Almaty after that and establish connections for future programs in teaching English.

Inside this issue:

Sing Joy	2
Kazakhstan Judiciary	2
In the Spotlight	2
Almaty News	3
On the Road with Isker	3
Around the City Corner	4

TASCC MONTHLY MEETING

Wednesday, July 16th

Tucson Medical Center
Alamo Building

5:30 pm

Board of Directors

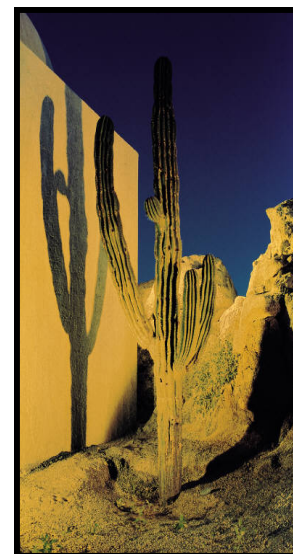
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EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE PERSON: Saumya VanderWyst



Tucson Boys Chorus Joins the Isker Boys Choir from Almaty for an Amazing Concert!



This was your opportunity to join TASCSC in a cultural happening! On January 19, 2008, the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus performed a combined concert with the Isker Boys Choir from Almaty, Kazakhstan featuring a varied program from classical selections to Kazakh folksongs. The Tucson-Almaty Sister Cities Committee joined with the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus to bring this event to Tucson. After this concert, the Isker group traveled throughout Arizona presenting concerts. This project is one of many in the areas of Education, Culture and Economic Development that fulfills our mission of "PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE DIPLOMACY". International exchange provides a marvelous tool for inspiring growth and development in the minds of youth



in the world. It is also a great example of how community partnerships can bring interesting and beautiful facts about other cultures and societies to our own metropolitan Tucson.

Let your City Council know how much you appreciate their support for Sister City programming. Mayor and Mrs. Walkup were instrumental in inviting Isker to Tucson. Send email to the following: mcweb@tucsonaz.gov



Open World is an exchange and partnership program designed to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation between Eurasian and American leaders. It builds the groundwork for such cooperation by bringing young Eurasian civic and political leaders to the United States to work with their American counterparts during 10-day professional visits. Open World then facilitates ongoing partnerships among its Eurasian and American participants through virtual networking and post-visit activities. Since 1999, more than 12,000 Eurasians have been hosted by 6,000-plus families in more than 1,540 U.S. communities thanks to Open World. The program is managed by the Open World Leadership Center, a U.S. legislative branch agency.



In the Spotlight

Gary Sawyer, a retired high school math teacher and 40-year videographer/photographer for the University of Arizona Band is in the spotlight for many reasons. Two reasons that really stand out are noted here. One of the legacies that out-going Chair Barbara Chinworth leaves is the concept of establishing an endowment fund to support future activities of our committee. At our May meeting, Gary presented a check for \$600 to start the fund. Another reason to laude Gary is for his continuous effort to make the Bolashak students, 34 in number, feel at home in Tucson. Not only has he had a student from Kazakhstan living with him while attending school in Tucson for the last five years, he is also the 'crash pad/sleep-over joint' for students that need to get out of the dormitory for a while. Oh, did I mention that he runs a shuttle service to the Phoenix airport for many of our visitors to and from Kazakhstan? And he NEVER turns down a request for help!

Article by Jerry Gary

Almaty

News

Did you Know?

Almaty, Kazakhstan, located in the very center on the Eurasian continent, is the biggest city of Kazakhstan, which was the former Soviet Union. Almaty has a soft climate and has good natural conditions for gardening, which explains why many streets run straight to the gardens. The name Almaty was given to the city because of the apples they grow, "Alma" means "apple" in Kazak. There are many plantations at the foot of the mountains: grains, vineyards, orchards and berry plantations. Almaty's main characteristic of nature and climate is variety. Walking along the streets in the summer time you'll find yourself in different climate zones. Almaty has 16 museums, 63 banks, 36 embassies and many other interests.

Submitted by Celina Cubillas
Student, University of Arizona

Foreign Investments Wanted

Kazakhstan is a relatively unknown country located south of Russia. It is ninth in geographic size in the world. Its population of 15.5 million makes it very sparsely inhabited. Economically it is based on the natural resources of oil, natural gas, and minerals. The agriculture industry is strong. The country receives much assistance from the United States. Therefore, the United States' "institutions, military establishments, and a free market economy" have a great attraction for the Kazakhstans. They gained their independence from the Soviet Union on December 16, 1991. Since this time they have worked on becoming a "stable, unified, democratic, independent state."

Submitted by Danette Young
Student, University of Arizona



ON THE ROAD WITH ISKER BOYS' CHOIR by Barbara Chinworth, Project coordinator and Chairperson of TASCC



Sing Joy-Voices of Hope, a project of the Tucson-Almaty Sister Cities Committee (TASCC), in collaboration with the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus, brought the 28 members and its seven staff members of the Isker Boys Choir from Almaty, Kazakhstan, for performances in Tucson, Flagstaff, on the floor of the Senate in Phoenix, and in Sierra Vista.

The choir, directed by Larissa Dimurina, a professionally trained musician and conductor, presented its music in both colorful and in more formal dress at Agua Caliente Elementary School, in Tucson, at Cholla High Magnet School, in Tucson and at Pueblo del Sol Elementary School in Sierra Vista. At each of those schools over 300 students and faculty heard and cheered the well-trained ensemble, which presented a repertoire of diversity for just such a tour, one piece from West Side Story, the huapango, *America*, especially enjoyed. At each of these schools, the skill of the ensemble was quickly recognized as the audiences sat in excellent attention.

In addition to the school performances, Isker Boys Choir presented a stellar joint performance with the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus, each ensemble doing a complete half then merging for a rousing finish to an estimated audience of 700. In Flagstaff, hosted by Flagstaff Sister Cities, and **Judy Bab-bitt**, the choir performed for 200 at the Coconino Center for the Arts, and in Sierra Vista, hosted by the Cochise Childrens Chorus families, for nearly 350 in an overcapacity crowd. At the short performance in colorful costume on the floor of the Senate, hosted by Senate president, Congressman Tim Bee, the choir sang to a full senate, members of TASCC, as well as to Isker parents in the gallery, the solid support group of Isker Boys Choir. The parent group was most important for the tour, helping the young singers with costumes, sniffles, and promptness, meeting the demanding schedule.



Home-hosting involved 66 individuals. It was a key part of the tour because it put a friendly and caring face back to America. The parents of Isker were reluctant to make the trip, receiving through the course of their daily lives, many negative and frightening images of America via TV and other sources. Often throughout the tour and especially at departure, the parents expressed their safe feelings, as they thanked the committee and hosts for such warmth, care, and many smiles.

around the *Committee* corner
with... →

Barbara Chinworth

While in VA in June, for my grandson's high school graduation, I made an appointment and was received by Ambassador Erlan A. Idrissov, who is planning a trip to Tucson and Arizona in early November. Ambassador Idrissov is very fluent in English, has a quick wit, and looks forward to a visit to the southwest. Accompanied by my son who had recently visited the Grand Canyon, the Ambassador was eager to know all the different ways to visit the Canyon. Quite a lively discussion took off. The ambassador will focus his visit on the students from Kazakhstan who are at the University of Arizona, who will plan his presence on the campus. He also hopes to meet Governor Napolitano. This will be a busy three or four days, which his assistant, Zhanbolat Ussenov, has penciled into the tentative itinerary . Take advantage of the Embassy's regular newsletter at: info@kazakhembus.com It is a wealth of information not from an encyclopedia.

I have left TASCC in good hands and with some tangible efforts for its continued clear direction, i.e., a set of revised by-laws, and the establishment of an endowment fund, thanks to Gary Sawyer, who was on the committee to get it started. I feel it will give donors a good sense of the longevity and commitment of TASCC.

As this newsletter goes to print, I am pleased to write that TASCC and Teach for Friendship have a partnership which sees its first fruits this July, as Dan Davidson and colleague Karen Loquavam travel to east Kazakhstan as volunteer teachers of English, a pilot program for TASCC and TFF and in line with Kazakhstan's need for teachers of English. Dan came to TASCC on my watch and presented his comprehensive plan for teaching English with volunteers, which has seen great success in China, and which he was so hopeful to place in Kazakhstan. It's a reality. Thanks, Dan.

You can become a member of Tucson-Almaty Sister Cities Committee and its activities for development through people-to-people diplomacy by emailing the contact information in this Newsletter. Look for it!
Sincerely,
Barbara L. Chinworth, Immediate Past Chair
Tucson-Almaty Sister Cities Committee

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