

AKHBOR: News of Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities

Cyber Café Project Closer to Groundbreaking

The construction committee has been making significant strides towards groundbreaking for the Cyber Café in Dushanbe. Board Member (and Teahouse Architect) Vern Seieroe made a very productive visit to Dushanbe last November which included the signing of an official agreement with the Mayor of Dushanbe witnessed by U.S. Ambassador Hoagland.

The Board has hired an engineering company in Dushanbe, Tajik-Swiss Project Professionals (TSPP), who has agreed to oversee the Cyber Cafe construction at our new site in Dushanbe's Friendship Park. They will do the initial geotechnical and engineering work and then will help select the best local contractors and materials. TSPP will also manage the daily construction process on behalf of BDSC. The Board plans to send a representative from Boulder to Dushanbe every 30 to 45 days to review construction progress and provide BDSC feedback.

As of mid-March, the architectural drawings by Barrett Studios were submitted to the Dushanbe mayor's office for final approval. Approval is expected in the very near future; construction can begin with a groundbreaking early Summer. Project completion is expected within 6 to 10 months from groundbreaking. The Board hopes to celebrate Navruz 2006 at the new Dushanbe-Boulder Cyber Café!



New Cyber Café Design (Model) for the New Site
(Photo courtesy of Barrett Studio Architects, copyright 2005)

The Board and construction committee wish to sincerely thank the U.S. Embassy staff in Dushanbe for all the invaluable assistance they have provided!

Critical Volunteers Needed!

BDSC always needs your help! At this time, we have a *critical* need in the following volunteer positions:

Volunteer Coordinator - help recruit, coordinate, and assist new volunteers. Requires 2-3 hours a month.

Database Administrator – someone with Database *expertise* to manage membership and donor records, generate membership packets and provide reports and mailing assistance when needed. Requires 4-5 hours per month most of the year, 10-15 hours per month in the Fall.

If you are interested, contact

Don Mock (donmock@hotmail.com) or
Jackie Frischknecht (303-413-0955 janablep@aol.com)

Upcoming Events

Travel Group Meeting – Monday, May 2 – 7:30pm –
Home of Jackie Frischknecht

Interested in joining a group traveling, in the near future, to Dushanbe, other locations in and around Tajikistan, as well as ancient Silk Road sites? BDSC is holding a meeting to explore possibilities and gauge interest in participating in such an adventure. Please come join us at 3885 Newport Lane in north Boulder.

Contact Jackie Frischknecht (303-413-0955, janablep@aol.com) for directions or information, if needed.

Read the brief later in this newsletter about the reunion and recollections of a previous travel group.

Downtown Boulder Business Networking Breakfast –
Tentative Date in mid-June – Boulder-Dushanbe Teahouse

The BDSC membership committee is planning a networking breakfast in mid-June for members of Downtown Boulder, Inc. (DBI). This event will be a great opportunity for DBI members to learn more about BDSC, the Teahouse, and the Cyber Café project. We hope to have DBI members join BDSC with a business membership. A buffet-style breakfast and time for DBI members to network are planned. If you are interesting in participating, please contact Lori DeMersseman at colodems@comcast.net.

Marshall Foundation Dinner

On March 15th, Mr. John Tayer, of *Roche Colorado*, hosted a dinner at the Teahouse for seven Fellows visiting the U.S. with the German Marshall Foundation. Joe Stepanek represented BDSC and gave a briefing to the European visitors on Boulder's Sister City relationship, our Teahouse and on the plans for the Cyber Café. This group of young professionals reflects the spectrum of Europe – a representation all the cultures, interests and philosophies – with which the European Union is now contending. The Fellows are learning a great deal about other's perspectives while touring the U.S.

Joe Stepanek used the occasion to thank Mr. Tayer for hosting the dinner and particularly thanked Mr. Tayer and *Roche* for their generous support of the Cyber Café project.



Thanks to Roche Colorado for their generous support of the Cyber Café project!

Travel Group Holds Reunion

In September of 1999, former BDSC president Mary Axe led a group of 12 travelers to Dushanbe as the "semi-official" representatives of Boulder at the 1100th Anniversary celebration of the Tajik-heritage Samanid Dynasty. Last month over the Navruz weekend, 10 of the 12 travelers from Boulder enjoyed a reunion. The group reminisced about their "royal treatment" as the guests of the City of Dushanbe. They noted that "Tajik hospitality is tops" and particularly recalled the music and dancing of the celebrations as outstanding. Their trip also included visits to Moscow, Samarkand, Bukhara and Tashkent. All agreed that it was the trip of a lifetime.

If you are interested in participating in such an adventure yourself, please join the Travel Group meeting in May. See the event notice at the top of this newsletter for more information.

BDSC Archives Transfer Hands

Our long-time member Maria Richmond, who has served as BDSC archivist for several years, is no longer able to continue in that position. The Board sincerely thanks Maria for her past contributions in this role and all members who have helped to hang on to our organization's history.

Board member Joe Stepanek has volunteered to assume the archivist role for us. Members are encouraged to transfer any significant BDSC, Teahouse, or Cyber Café documents to Joe, and he in turn welcomes all requests for access to these records.

Joe can be reached at 303-544-0881, 720 11th St Boulder, 80302, or by email: jcvstep@infionline.net

Contacting Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities

Phone: 303-444-9004

Web site: www.boulder-dushanbe.org

Email: donmock@hotmail.com



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Boulder, CO 80306

"5280" Magazine Writes About BDSC Efforts

Check out the April 2005 edition of "5280" magazine (pages 24-25) for an article about BDSC, the Teahouse, and efforts on the Cyber Café.

New BDSC Website Debuts Soon

Our website will get a new look in the next few weeks (same address www.boulder-dushanbe.org)!



(Cyber Café Plan courtesy of Barrett Studio Architects, copyright 2005)

If you are receiving this newsletter and you are *not* currently a member of BDSC, please consider joining or renewing by sending a check for \$30 (basic household membership) to:

Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities - Membership

PO Box 115
Niwot, CO 80544

To make a contribution to the Cyber Café Gift project, send a check made out to:

Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities - Cyber Café

PO Box 4864
Boulder, CO 80306

Please include name, address, phone and email address with all correspondence. Information is kept confidential by BDSC.