

AKHBOR: News of Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities

Board Member Represents BDSC at Sister Cities International Conference

Board member Jim Gerwin represented BDSC at the Sister Cities International (SCI) annual conference held in Spokane, Washington from July 27th to 31st. Jim reports that over 600 delegates from around the world attended this year's conference. Tom Foley, former Speaker of the House and Ambassador to Japan, gave the keynote speech at the main luncheon.



SCI conference participants enjoyed entertainment from around the world

Jim organized and staffed a table at the "Sister Cities Best Practices Showcase", an exhibition of 57 sister city groups. He talked with between 25 and 30 visitors about BDSC and our projects. Jim notes, "I did meet several people from other Central Asia-South Russia-Caucases Sister Cities, and everyone felt a meeting of our regional organizations would be a good way to exchange ideas." He suggested such a meeting for the 2006 annual convention.



SCI conference participants joined in a Dragon Boat Race

Attending the SCI Board meeting, Jim learned that the 2006 annual meeting will be held in Washington, DC and will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Sister Cities International. The SCI Board is recommending early registration (prior to the end of 2005), as only 1000 spaces will be reserved for SCI members from the U.S. at the Gala Dinner. Another 400 spaces will be reserved for SCI visitors from abroad and for dignitaries. President Bush and former President Clinton will be invited to attend (the sitting President is the Honorary Chair of SCI).

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein (D), U.S. Senator and former mayor of San Francisco, the Honorable Richard G. Lugar (R), U.S. Senator, chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and former mayor of Indianapolis, and the Honorable Anthony Williams, Mayor of Washington, DC will serve as honorary co-chairs of the 2006 convention. There will be 120 tables at the Gala Dinner. SCI wants to sell them, as a fundraiser to sponsor corporations, for \$10,000 per table (the sponsoring companies will get 2 seats at the table).

For more information on Sister Cities International or the annual convention, visit the website www.sistercities.org.

Upcoming Events

BDSC Annual Dinner – NOTE: DATE CHANGE –
Sunday September 18 – 6pm – Boulder-Dushanbe Teahouse

The BDSC membership committee is planning the Annual Member's Dinner at the Teahouse which promises to be a fun event with new activities this year:

- A Tajik folk music group
- Private tours of the Teahouse
- Dinner and dancing

6:00pm – Cocktails in the Garden

7:00pm – Dinner in the Teahouse

8:30pm – Dancing

Tickets are \$60 per person or \$480 for a corporate table. Seating is limited and tickets sell out fast, so please RSVP before September 5th.

For more information, please contact Karla Friar at 303-952-4502 or by email Annual_Dinner@hotmail.com.

U.S. Ambassador Opens "Internet Learning Center" at the Dushanbe Islamic University

The U.S. Embassy in Dushanbe sends the following:

"On July 19, U.S. Ambassador to Tajikistan Richard E. Hoagland joined university officials and Relief International staff to open the Internet Learning Center (ILC) at Islamic University in Dushanbe. This is the first such center to be created at an Islamic institution in Tajikistan.

'The Internet Learning Center will allow you instant communication with Muslim communities around the world, including the ever-growing Muslim community in the United States,' remarked Ambassador Hoagland during the ceremony. 'With this center, we would like to help you build links with American Islamic scholars to promote a better understanding among our communities. Tajik culture represents a thousand years of Islamic learning in Central Asia.'

The Center at the Islamic University is one of 24 Internet Learning Centers in communities across Tajikistan. The School Connectivity Program increases access to learning, global dialogue and open communication by providing training to teachers, installing modern computer equipment, and facilitating learning projects.

The School Connectivity Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and administered in Tajikistan by Relief International."



Ambassador Richard E. Hoagland (center) officially opens the Internet Learning Center

New Volunteer Coordinator to Help Others

Volunteering is a great way to get involved and meet more members of your community while helping to support BDSC. After several months of searching, we are pleased to welcome *Lois Leonhardi* as our new *Volunteer Coordinator!*

Lois has hit the ground running and asks that you take a look at the following opportunities and contact her for more information (email: Lois@Leonhardi.com or work phone: 303-302-6448). If you cannot volunteer yourself, please pass along these volunteer opportunities to friends that may be interested in helping out.

Fundraising Committee – Don Mock (Chair)

8 volunteers are needed to help raise funds for the construction of the new Cyber Café in Dushanbe. Committee members will work as a team to come up with strategies to solicit major gifts from local corporations and individuals. Volunteers will be provided with training and information to relay to the prospective donors. Estimated time commitment after the initial meeting is 2-4 hours per month.

Public Awareness Committee – (Committee Chair open)

The Public Awareness Committee is a newly created committee with the task of generating PR for BDSC. A committee chair (preferably someone with industry experience in marketing, public relations, etc.) is needed to create a Public Awareness program for BDSC. The chair will be responsible for establishing a strategy to keep BDSC in the media as we continue our task of fundraising for the cyber café. The PA Chair will meet with the Board and other committee chairs to develop a coordinated plan and consistent presentation to the public. Estimated time commitment will be 4-6 hours per month at first, but less as the committee gets up and running.

5 volunteers are also needed to serve on this newly created committee. No experience necessary. Estimated time commitment is 2-4 hours per month.

Travel Group Planning for 2006 Dushanbe Trip

Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities is working on plans for a tour to Dushanbe and Central Asia during 2006. If you are interested in joining the group or just curious to learn more, please contact Sophia Stoller at 303-444-3196 or email her at sophiastoller@yahoo.com.

BDSC Welcomes Corporate Members

Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities introduced a new corporate membership program for 2006. These \$130 memberships allow local businesses to support the activities of BDSC and provide the same member benefits as individual household memberships. In addition, corporate members receive a free advertisement in our newsletter. Please support the businesses you see advertised in our newsletter as they have been so great in supporting us!



Contacting Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities

Email:

General information: info@boulder-dushanbe.org
Donations: treasurer@boulder-dushanbe.org
Membership: membership@boulder-dushanbe.org
Newsletter: newsletter@boulder-dushanbe.org
Volunteers: volunteers@boulder-dushanbe.org
Web site: webmaster@boulder-dushanbe.org

Phone: 303-444-9004

Web site: www.boulder-dushanbe.org

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 individual/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.



PO Box 4864
Boulder, CO 80306