

AKHBOR: News of Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities

Central Asian Visitors Hosted in Boulder

On Wednesday June 15th, members of the BDSC Board of Directors hosted tea at the Boulder-Dushanbe Teahouse for three visitors from Central Asia. The U.S. Department of Commerce—*Business Information Service for the Newly Independent States* (BISNIS), was holding a conference in Denver the same day. Board members were able to meet with Jamshed Rahmonberdiev, the BISNIS representative in Dushanbe. Several members of the board already knew Jamshed, who continues to be a great help in keeping the Cyber Café project moving in Dushanbe.

The Denver BISNIS conference also brought Jahangir Kakharov, the BISNIS representative from Uzbekistan and Andrei Vasenyov from Khabarovsk, Russia. The three Representatives were accompanied by Jerry and Judy Jergensen from Colorado Springs. The Jergensens had met Jamshed last February in Dushanbe during a Chamber of Commerce business visit.

Board members Peter and Sophia Stoller, who also have known Jamshed for years, joined the group for tea, as did Vern Seieroe, John Wyatt, Joe Stepanek and Jim Gerwin. It was the first visit for Jahangir and Andrei to the United States, and for all three guests, a first visit to Boulder. All enjoyed exchanging news from Dushanbe and Boulder, and talking about things Americana as the visitors savored the Teahouse and toured the Pearl Street Mall.

Volunteers Needed!

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

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

If you are interested, contact

Jackie Frischknecht (303-413-0955
volunteers@boulder-dushanbe.org) or
Don Mock (info@boulder-dushanbe.org)

Membership Breakfast Event a Success

Over 50 members of BDSC attended a membership breakfast at the Teahouse on Thursday morning June 23rd. Much thanks to Lori Demersserman and volunteers of the membership committee for organizing this special event. BDSC President Don Mock and Cyber Café Architect David Barrett helped lead off this low-key celebration of the upcoming ground-breaking of the Cyber Café in Dushanbe (the big party will occur when the Cyber Café is completed!). Don and David spoke about the status of the groundbreaking (to happen as soon as the plan clears Dushanbe City bureaucracy!) and the ongoing fundraising for this project.

Upcoming Events

Annual Dinner – *Tentative date* – evening September 16 – Boulder-Dushanbe Teahouse

The BDSC membership committee is planning the annual member's dinner at the Teahouse. If you are interesting in volunteering, please contact Karla Friar at 303-786-8015 or by email kcfriar@hotmail.com.

U.S. Embassy Opens "American Corner"

Maya Vakhobova, Dushanbe Public Diplomacy Section Assistant, our contact at the U.S. Embassy in Dushanbe sends the following:

"I wanted to inform you all that the U.S. Embassy in Tajikistan opened the American Corner in Khujand on April 13, 2005. Mr. Ambassador and the First Deputy Mayor of Khujand cut the red ribbon at its official opening ceremony. We had good public turnout including U.S. Government program alumni."

Mr. Manon Khaydarov, a wood carver that worked on the Tajik Teahouse in Boulder, also attended. It was my big pleasure to introduce him to Mr. Ambassador. Mr. Khaydarov showed the photos of his visit to Boulder and later asked me to say 'hello' to all who helped him during his trip and work in Boulder. Special thanks to Mary Axe, Sophia and Peter Stoller, Vern Seieroe and many, many others who were really patient and kind to the Tajik artists. Mr. Khaydarov told me as well that his thinks much about that trip and time in Boulder, he misses people and wishes he could meet with them some day in Tajikistan.

— Many thanks and all the best to all in Boulder, Maya."



Manon Khaydarov (right) shows photos of Boulder to Ambassador Richard E. Hoagland (left) and Maya (center)

Travel Group Planning for Trip Next Year

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

New Member to Help with BDSC Database

BDSC member Ron Broome, who has served as the BDSC database manager for several years, is swamped with other BDSC activities and is no longer able to continue in that role. Ron continues to volunteer with BDSC in editing this newsletter and promotional materials, working with the membership committee, and maintaining the new website once it goes online.

New BDSC member Marybeth Zarlingo has volunteered to assume the database manager position for BDSC. Marybeth will be responsible for recording member and donor data in our database, and producing membership packets and mailing labels. She also helps on the membership committee.

As usual, please contact Jackie Frischknecht for information pertaining to the database (volunteers@boulder-dushanbe.org or 303-413-0955)..

MaryBeth can be reached at 303-998-0000 (w) or by email mbzarlingo@msn.com.

Website Rollout Delayed

Due to volunteer commitments in other BDSC activities, the rollout of our new website was delayed. Keep an eye out for it in the next several weeks at the same URL address www.boulder-dushanbe.org! Thanks for your patience.

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



PO Box 4864
Boulder, CO 80306

Former BDSC Member Helps Tajikistan

Although former BDSC member Roger Kovacs left Colorado several years ago for Ohio, he continues to work tirelessly for the people of Tajikistan. His projects include World Bank funded translations of text books for students on CD and localization of the Linux computer operating system to the Tajik language.

He organizes student projects on human rights, pen pal programs, along with web cam tours of educational sites in the U.S. (such as zoos, model airplane shows, fire departments, etc.) for students in Tajikistan.

Roger is also sponsoring a Tajik college student who graduates from Western Nebraska Community College next semester. He hopes to sponsor a second student there assuming a Visa is granted by the U.S. Embassy in time.

Roger can be reached at rkovacs@khujand.org.



Roger (center) and friends in Tajikistan 2001.

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.