

AKHBOR: NEWS OF BOULDER-DUSHANBE SISTER CITIES

CYBER CAFÉ GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY



The young people of Dushanbe will soon have a place to go to get in touch with young people in their sister city, Boulder, Colorado. On March 22, 2006, Ambassador Richard E. Hoagland, Dushanbe Mayor Mahmadsaid Ubaidulloev, and Boulder-Dushanbe

Sister City President Don Mock participated in a ground-breaking ceremony for Boulder's state-of-the-art Cyber Café gift to Dushanbe. The Cyber Café is our return gift for Dushanbe's gift of the beautiful Tajik Teahouse which, as of 1998, represented the largest gift ever presented to the United States by the former Soviet Union. Visited by thousands each year, the Tajik Teahouse is famous across the United States.

The Cyber Café will serve as a technologically advanced cultural center and will be built with money donated directly from the people of Boulder. The U.S. Embassy expects the Cyber Café will provide greater access to the world for Dushanbe citizens while helping to build a bridge of friendship between Dushanbe and Boulder.

During the ground-breaking in Dushanbe, a symbolic tree was planted in Boulder as part of the ceremony. An apricot tree was planted just to the south of the Teahouse, along the White Rock ditch and a plaque with the following inscription was erected:

Apricot Tree

*Planted March 23, 2006 in Commemoration
of the Ground-breaking held this same day
in Dushanbe for a Reciprocal Gift
of a Cyber Café from
the Citizens of Boulder to our Sister City.*

MORE PHOTOS FROM GROUND-BREAKING IN DUSHANBE



UPCOMING EVENTS

Be watching for some exciting upcoming Fall events!

OUR PHONE NUMBER HAS CHANGED!

✂ New Number: (303)440-6283 ✂

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Please welcome our new Newsletter Editor, Julie Hale! To submit relevant articles about BDSC or for more information about the newsletter, contact Julie at: newsletter@boulder-dushanbe.org

CENTRAL ASIAN AND TAJIK VISITORS LOOKING AT RENEWABLE ENERGY & ECO-TOURISM IN BOULDER

April 12-16, members of Boulder Dushanbe Sister Cities helped to host a delegation of Central Asian technical and tourism folk on a renewable energy tour sponsored by Ecolinks (Eurasian-American Partnership for Environmentally Sustainable Economies), a U.S. AID program. BDSC hosted a luncheon at the Teahouse for our Tajik, Uzbek, Kirgiz, Turkmen and Kazak visitors. Ron & Marlies West and Peter & Sophia Stoller provided local tours and a home stay. Our Tajik visitors were Dr. Rafika, Chairman of the Association of Power Engineers of Tajikistan (also the former Minister of Labor and Social Protection of Tajikistan and former member of Parliament and Chairman of the State Development Committee), and Istamoy & Mirzoy Madaliev owners of JSC "BUNYOD" a tourism, trade and transport company.

The U.S. delegation was led by John McGill of Ecolinks and was fortunate to have Lyudmila Bujoreanu of Telecom/Telematique Inc. as translator. The renewable energy tour included a presentation by Sam Neshik of Barrett Studio about the Cyber Café for Dushanbe and a visit with the City of Boulder office of Environmental Affairs to learn about Boulder's financial savings using hydroelectric and solar energy.

The group visited:

- NREL in Golden and then went on to dinner with Ron and Gretchen Larson at their solar decathlon-award-winning home on Lookout Mountain.
- The Boulder Resource Conservation Center. They were very interested in its activities and fascinated by the non-profit's fund-raising efforts sponsoring a footrace.
- They toured the Boulder Shelter for the Homeless to see their solar photo voltaic renewable electric system and North Boulder Rec Center featuring extensive use of recycled construction materials and the largest solar hot water heating system in the U.S.
- And finally, they visited with representatives of the Sustainable Village Association focusing on capitalist models for sustainable development in developing countries.

BDSC members hosted the visitors for tours of local tourist attractions, and shopping expeditions. Sophia and Peter Stoller hosted our Tajik visitors in their passive solar home.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Contact Volunteer Coordinator Lois Leonhardi for information about BDSC volunteer opportunities.

Email: Lois@Leonhardi.com or work phone: 303-302-6448

BDSC WEBSITE

In case you haven't visited the BDSC website lately, you should check it out! The newly overhauled website was designed with five permanent sections. The "About Us" section describes BDSC: our history, goals and activities, our two sister cities, the Teahouse, links to Boulder's other sister cities groups and other related organizational information. The "Join", "Volunteer" and "Donate" sections tell how to be active as a member, volunteer or donor. "What's Happening" provides the latest BDSC news, upcoming event information and links to news related to Dushanbe. Links on the left sidebar of every webpage allow you to jump between sections or delve deeper to major topics in a section.

The website also has several "temporary" sections. The "Cyber Cafe" section is hard to miss — it starts from the scrolling marquee on the home page. Click on the marquee or the photo of the Cyber Café model to read about what's happening with the Cyber Café project. Also, you will find links to the "Cyber Cafe" section on the webpage sidebar (bottom) — we really want you to visit this section! Another link on the home page takes you to a description of George Peknik's book, "The Meaning of the Boulder-Dushanbe Teahouse" and where to purchase it. Finally, there is a link to Art Photos of Dushanbe and Tajikistan taken by Toimastov Sur'at. These wonderful photos are a gift to Boulder to be displayed in the Teahouse.

You'll find all of this at the same URL address we've always had: <http://www.boulder-dushanbe.org/>. Coming soon to the website: online donations, memberships/renewals and event ticket purchasing. Keep an eye out for this exciting addition later in the summer!

ANNUAL NAVRUZ CELEBRATION HELD MARCH 19

The traditional Persian New Year celebration of Navruz was marked this year on Sunday, March 19th at the Dushanbe Teahouse with food, music, dancing and new this year, snow! But the cold wet weather didn't dampen spirits as the inside of the Teahouse featured a Persian feast as a fund-raiser for the Cyber Cafe reciprocal gift project. Don Mock and his wife Anita Colin organized this year's entertainment, while Lenny Martinelli and his Teahouse staff delivered the fabulous feast. Afternoon music was provided by Rachid Halihal and evening music by Kylie Faint and her ensemble. The Teahouse seemed crowded most of the day. A tree planting, organized by BDSC Vice President Jim Gerwin and planned to coincide with a ground-breaking ceremony in Dushanbe for the Cyber Cafe, had to be postponed until Wednesday due to the snow, but it took place then without a hitch.

NOMINATION OF AMBASSADOR TRACEY A. JACOBSON (April 25, 2006)

The White House announced on April 25 that President George W. Bush is nominating Tracey Ann Jacobson, of the District of Columbia, to be the next Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Tajikistan. Ms. Jacobson, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, currently serves as United States Ambassador to Turkmenistan. Prior to this, she served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Riga, Latvia. Earlier in her career, she served as Deputy Executive Secretary at the National Security Council. Ms. Jacobson received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the Johns Hopkins University.

The appointment of Ambassador Jacobson to Tajikistan will be final upon confirmation by the U.S. Senate. The current U.S. Ambassador to Tajikistan, Richard E. Hoagland, will continue to serve in Dushanbe until later this summer.

CONTACTING BOULDER-DUSHANBE SISTER CITIES

Email:

General information: info@boulder-dushanbe.org
Donations: treasurer@boulder-dushanbe.org
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Web site: webmaster@boulder-dushanbe.org

Phone: 303.440.6283 ****NOTE NEW NUMBER****

Web site: www.boulder-dushanbe.org

**Special Thanks to Aegis Staffing of Boulder
for donating the printing cost of this newsletter!**



P.O. Box 4864
Boulder, CO 80306

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
P.O. 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
P.O. Box 4864
Boulder, CO 80306

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