

## AKHBOR: News of Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities

### FALL 2010 OPEN WORLD VISIT

#### Tajik Secondary School Administrators Visit Boulder

September 25 to October 2, 2010 Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities was fortunate to host a delegation of six Tajik secondary level administrators sponsored by Open World Leadership Center, a program funded by the United States Congress. The theme of the visit was Progressive Educational Reform in Tajikistan.

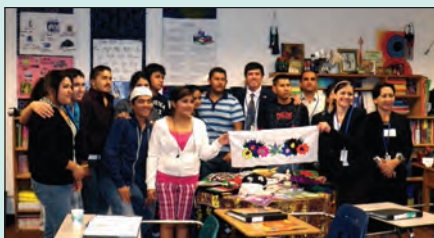
The delegates, three women and three men, came from diverse regions of Tajikistan. They were Khakima Atahhanova, Muattarkhon Ubaydulloyeva, Lolagul Raimbekov, Zulfikor Abdulkhamidov, Akbarali Choriyev, and Ilkhomzhom Sutlonov. They were hosted by local Boulder families many of whom are educators in the Boulder Valley School District (BVSD). BVSD was very supportive of the visit and helped facilitate visits to nine of Boulder's secondary level schools. Our community support was outstanding. Parents, students and educators whole-heartedly participated in the planning and hosting of the delegation. A great thank you goes out to all who spent hours organizing and hosting this wonderful week-long event.



Tajik educators left to right: Muattarkhon Ubaydulloyeva, Lolagul Raimbekova, Zulfikor Abdulkhamidov, Maya Vakhobova (interpreter), Akbarali Choriyev, Khakima Atahhanova, Ilkhomzhom Sultanonov

Special thanks goes to the host families: Susan Osborne and Alan Boles, Kevin Gates, Sheila and John Malcolm, Heather Riffel and Ben Ridge, Kirk Quitter and Aubrey Corwin, Cathy Lazar and Deborah Roby, Jode Brexa and Ebrahim Asadishad. Thank you to our host family coordinator Nancy Taylor-Farel who also opened her home for the Welcome Dinner. Thanks to Leanne Soucek who spent hours working with parents organizing fabulous cultural entertainment for our visitors and to members of the Parent Engagement Network for hosting Tajik/American exchanges with our visitors. The week concluded with a wonderful farewell dinner hosted by Caroline and Joe Stepanek. This event would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of Sophia and Peter Stoller. Thank you, Stollers.

We would like to thank the following schools and their principals, staff and students for hosting the delegates: Centaurus High School, New Vista High School, Fairview High School, Horizon K-8, Nevin Platt Middle School, Casey Middle School, Naropa University, Arapahoe Ridge Campus, Boulder High School, and Peak to Peak Charter School.



Delegates and students at Arapahoe Ridge High School.

### CALENDAR

#### NAVRUZ

Sunday, March 20, 2011

#### Boulder Dushanbe Teahouse

1770 13th Street, Boulder

Celebrate Navruz, the Persian New Year with the Denver/Boulder Tajik community. Food, music, Tajik and Central Asian cultural activities. All are welcome. For more information contact the Boulder-Dushanbe Teahouse at 303-442-4993.

#### TAJIK COACHES VISIT

March 26 - April 2, 2011

Host Families Needed! See article on page two. For more information about programs with the coaches please contact Sophia Stoller at 303-444-3196.

#### TEAHOUSE TOURS

Saturdays (first of each month) 9:00 a.m.

BSDC continues to offer a free hour-long tour of this remarkable gift from the people of Tajikistan on the first Saturday of each month. No reservations are necessary. Meet outside main entrance. For more information, call 303-440-6283 (not for dining reservations) or check the Friday section of the Boulder Daily Camera.

### CYBER-CAFÉ FRIENDSHIP CENTER UPDATE

Peter and Sophia Stoller visited Dushanbe and the Cyber-Café Friendship Center November 12 to November 23, 2010. They report the following. It was wonderful to visit with the Tajik friends we have made over the many years of hosting exchanges in Boulder. At times it was like old home week. The main focus of the visit was to see the Friendship Center in operation and offer any advise and assistance as necessary. We were kindly received by Dushanbe city officials. The Friendship Center has been operational for over a year. Unfortunately under the current management the Center was not operating up



Dushanbe Cyber-Café Friendship Center - November 2010

to its potential and was suffering many signs of physical neglect. After extensive talks with Dushanbe City and communications from Mayor Osborne to Mayor Ubaidulloev, we are hopeful that the Friendship Center will have a new start and the problems corrected. We are awaiting a response from Mayor Ubaidulloev regarding the Friendship Center status.

We are sure that the city of Dushanbe wants the Friendship Center to be a success. The many Tajiks who have visited Boulder and have seen the wonderful Teahouse stand ready to offer assistance to the Friendship Center to promote its success so there will be a positive solution to the current problems. The building is a handsome presence and reminder of Boulder's friendship.

## BDSC BOARD MEMBER VISITS DUSHANBE

### Jode Brexa Conducts Training in Dushanbe

BDSC board member, Jode Brexa, was invited to return to Dushanbe in November, 2010, to conduct a training for Tajik English Teacher Mentors on standards-based curriculum and design. As well, Jode visited Zeboniso Murodova at Sarband School #1 for a Thanksgiving program and dinner and also presented Thanksgiving activities at the American Corner in Quorgan Teppa and with children at the NGO Multikid in Dushanbe. In early February, she will be presenting at a conference in Washington, D.C., to speak about global perspectives in the secondary classroom and to share student projects between Arapahoe Campus where she teaches and School #1 in Sarband. Jode hopes to be traveling to Tajikistan in June, 2011, to facilitate a digital storytelling project with teachers and students in Dushanbe, Khujand, and Sarband.



Jode Brexa and children at Multikid in Dushanbe



## BOULDER TO HOST TAJIK COACHES

March 26 to April 2, 2011 – Host Families Needed

A delegation of eight Tajik coaches participating in the International Sports Programming Initiative for Tajikistan funded by the US State Department will be visiting Boulder March 26 to April 2, 2011. American Councils is organizing their trip.

There are a range of sports the coaches are interested in. The program is focused on building soft skills -- coaching best practices, leadership development, administration of community-based youth sports, etc. During the first week they will be in Washington D.C. and will focus on soccer. The second week they will be at Northern Iowa State University focusing on volleyball. The third week in Boulder will be a training with the International Alliance for Youth Sports- Game on! Program and basketball. They will be visiting various Boulder sports programs and facilities.

Boulder will have the great opportunity of hosting the coaches and offering them home stays for the week. If you are interested in being a host family or would like more information about the week's activities, please contact Sophia Stoller at 303- 444-3196.

## EMAIL ADDRESSES

Please send us your email address. It is a tremendous financial saving for BDSC to send the newsletter and notices to its community of friends by way of email. The quality is better with color rather than black and white printing on paper and it is faster. Please send your email address to: [newsletter@boulder-dushanbe.org](mailto:newsletter@boulder-dushanbe.org). We do not share our addresses with others. Our notices and newsletters are sent 3 to 5 times a year.

## CORRECTION

There was an error in the caption of the Friendship Center photo sent with membership cards. The credit should read Julie Hale.

## COMINGS AND GOINGS

### WELCOME

Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities welcomes Maya Vakhobova and her family to Denver. Maya lived in Dushanbe and worked at the US embassy in Dushanbe for many years. She is a long time friend of BDSC and has played an instrumental role in many cultural exchanges between our cities. She was especially helpful in facilitating the transporting of the Teahouse to Boulder and the visit of Tajik artisans here.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS WELCOME

The Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities board extends a welcome to new board members: Jode Brexa and Judy Frye.

### GOOD-BYES AND THANK YOU

The Board wishes to extend a very big thank you to outgoing members: Sylvia Cheney, Jackie Frischknecht, Julie Hale, Don Mock and Nancy Taylor-Farel. We appreciate all the outstanding work and guidance they offered over the years. It has been significant. We truly appreciate their past and on-going support and activities. Thank you!

We would also like to extend a thank you to former board member and volunteer Ron Broome. He has moved us into the 21st century with his continued support of the BDSC website and his volunteer efforts at transitioning BDSC to an up-to-date database.

Another very large thank you to Ron West who is turning over the treasurer's activities to Aldona Siczek. Ron has steadily shepherded the organization through the complex financial activities of fund raising for the Cyber-Cafe and all the international construction finances for the Center.

## BDSC NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEER STAFF

Editor - Sophia Stoller  
Editing & Proofreading - Jacqueline Frischknecht  
Layout & Design - Julie Hale  
Webmaster - Ron Broome

If you received email notice of our newsletter please feel free to pass the newsletter on to others who might be interested. If you are not a current member consider joining our organization.

To receive future newsletters, event notices, invitations, and to support our efforts, send a check for a \$30 basic membership to:

Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities - Membership  
P.O. Box 4864  
Boulder, CO 80306

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

## CONTACTING BOULDER-DUSHANBE SISTER CITIES

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