



**FALL 2011
BOULDER, COLORADO**

AKHBOR: News of Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities

VISIT BY TAJIK COACHES - MARCH 2011

Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities hosted a visit of nine Tajik sports coaches participating in the US State Department's International Sports Programming Initiative in Tajikistan. The program was organized by American Councils for International Education in Washington, DC. These outstanding Tajik youth sports coaches traveled to Washington, DC, Iowa, and Colorado in March and April of 2011. From March 26 though April 2, the coaches stayed with Boulder families: Annette Ashley and Peter Maciualitis, Ann Brexa, Val and Spence Havlick, Judy and Ed Huston, Cyrus and Farida Madani, Caroline and Joe Stepanek.



Tajik sports coaches and Boulder host families

Bottom row left to right - Olim Fayziev, Annette Ashely, Jumanboy Saltarov, Peter Maciualitis, Sulymonhon Sultonov, Siena
Top left to right - Ed Huston, Tatiana Nazikova, Judy Huston, Gado Gadomamadov, Lyuba Khakmova, Ann Brexa, Parviz Pulatov, Farhod Muhamadiev, Cholpon Minaeva, Spence and Val Havlick.

They visited with a variety of sports programs here in Boulder including: The Boulder Recreation Centers, Boulder Indoor Soccer, Boulder Valley YMCA Youth basketball program, Madani Karati Studios, Boulder Rock Club, Nova Soccer, and the Women's Wilderness Institute. They had a great time at a Nuggets game at the Pepsi Center donated by Bill Hanz of Gold Crown basketball. Lenny Martinelli and the Teahouse staff did a wonderful job of hosting the group in the mornings at the Teahouse. On their return to Tajikistan they trained Tajik coaches and youth leaders based on knowledge and skills gained while in the US. A big thanks to all who made this program possible and who gave generously of their time.

BOULDERITE A FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR IN DUSHANBE 2011/12

Erinny Hask... Boulderite Fulbright Scholar...

CALENDAR

BDSC ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, November 10, 2011

6:30 p.m.

720 11th Street, Boulder

BDSC Annual meeting will be held at the home of Caroline and Joe Stepanek. Elections of board members will take place at this meeting. All members and supporters are invited. We will also have an update on the Friendship Center. People interested in serving on the Board are invited to attend. For more information about the annual meeting contact Joe at 303-544-0881.

TEAHOUSE TOURS

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

BDSC 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).

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS DUE

Please send dues by Dec. 31, 2011

Don't forget to renew your BDSC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP.

Membership fee is \$30 per year.

Send your check to: BDSC- Membership Committee

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

CYBER-CAFÉ FRIENDSHIP CENTER UPDATE

Gulru Azamova, an alumni of US State department funded programs and an MA recipient from the University of North Carolina, in conjunction with the previous director of the Friendship Center, FC staff, interested neighbors and with city of Dushanbe input has developed a Strategic Plan to aid in the successful operation of the FC. The project was funded by a small grant available to alumni of state department exchanges. Gulru is presently trying to make arrangements to present this plan to Dushanbe City officials. If you would like to see a copy of the Strategic Plan please email us at: sophiastoller@yahoo.com

Based on reports by Jode Brexa and visitors to the Friendship Center it is closed and sorely neglected. Recent efforts to contact local officials have gone unanswered. Board member Jode Brexa did visit the center this summer and met with Dushanbe city officials Dilovar Khamroev and Deputy Mayor Safaroev Sayvali. They said that they were hiring a new director for the center. Notices were posted in local papers and suggestions made by BDSC and supporters. It is our understanding that the city did not find a suitable candidate, the position remains unfilled and the Friendship Center remains closed. For more information please contact the city of Dushanbe at: dushanbe80@yahoo.com.

VIDEO ABOUT THE CYBER-CAFÉ

BOARD MEMBER VISITS TAJIKISTAN SUMMER 2011

By Jode Brexa

I had an extraordinary month in Tajikistan this past summer, from June 6 to July 7, 2011. A high point was having dinner with Madina Rakhmanova, our former FLEX student to Boulder.

As always, the best part of being in Tajikistan was working with kids! I traveled to Sarband in the south and to Kannebadam in the north with Zebo Murodova (who will be visiting us next month from Arizona where she is spending the year as a Fulbright). We helped students learn digital storytelling to document their community volunteer projects with photos, narratives and music. Their little "movies" were wonderful. You can see them at <http://youthactionproject.blogspot.com/>. The grant funded cameras, recording balls, technology maintenance, and flashdrives so students can continue the work.



Jode visiting Hamadony's ACCESS program in Garm.



"Give me five!" with English Teacher Mentors

I also travelled to Garm to work with NGO's and conducted a three-day training for English teacher mentors in Dushanbe. Great participants!



Celebrating the June 2011 English Teacher Mentor training in Dushanbe.

I visited the Cyber/Friendship Café. Sadly, the FC appeared abandoned. On June 14, I met with Dilovar Khamroev and Deputy Chairman Safarov Sayavali to talk about the current state of the Cyber-Café/Friendship Center. I delivered a letter from the Mayor of Boulder to the Mayor of Dushanbe, I shared photos of the FC, and showed Lindsey Drewes' movie with our hopes for the FC. I returned with a promise that the Mayor's Office would open a public selection process for a new director. Unfortunately, no director has yet been chosen.

I also met with Ambassador Gross who promised to support programming at the Cyber-café/ Friendship Center in Dushanbe when it has a director. I stay hopeful that a director will emerge from the pool of talented Tajik entrepreneurs in Dushanbe.

FORMER CYBER-CAFÉ COMMITTEE MEMBER STARTS NEW ENTERPRISE:

Update from Roger Kovacs, currently of Fort Wayne, Indiana, on his Gazebo Project

Thought you would like to know what I'm up to now. The two Tajik university students that you met a year ago at the Navruz dinner talked me into starting a company to import Gazebos. So we got organized, incorporated, and developed the business plan. We just received our first 'demo' gazebo, a tiny one to fit in a 10 ft exhibit space. Our first show will be in New York in March 2012 at the Architectural Digest Home Design Show. We were accepted through their committee. We're going to do our corporate announcement and press releases in conjunction with the show. I thought that you would like a sneak peek into what is filling our garage at the moment. But before you do, you can see it being built in Isfara - www.tajikdoorandgazebo.com (the site is being developed but I put some photos up there to share). Congratulations and best wishes to Roger and his Tajik partners!



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. We do not share our addresses with others. Our notices and newsletters are sent 3 to 5 times a year.

BDSC NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEER STAFF

Editor - Sophia Stoller

Editing & Proofreading - Jacqueline Frischknecht

Layout & Design - Julie Hale

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:

ZEBU MURODOVA TO VISIT BOULDER

Zeboniso Murodova is a public school teacher in School #1 in Sarband, Tajikistan. She volunteered as a translator and guide for Jode Brexa when Jode visited Tajikistan. She accompanied Jode on visits to the Cyber-café/Friendship Center and to meetings with Tajik officials. She is currently in Tempe, Arizona as a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (Fulbright FLTA) teaching Tajik twice in a week at Arizona State University. She'll be visiting Boulder from November 11-14. We welcome her to Boulder!



Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities - Membership
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Please include name, address, phone and email address with all correspondence. Information is kept confidential by BDSC.

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