



March, 2006
Boulder, Colorado

AKHBOR: News of Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities

Cyber Café Groundbreaking in Dushanbe

In late February, Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities received two pieces of exciting news from Tajikistan. Three Tajik building contractors have successfully submitted bids to construct our reciprocal gift of the Boulder Cyber Café in Dushanbe. The three proposals are all well-considered and their costs within reason. Secondly, the Dushanbe city government's equivalent of Boulder's building department has given the Cyber Café project the **green light**.

David Barrett, project architect, and Don Mock, BDSC President, will travel to Dushanbe in the coming weeks to interview the contractors and conduct a symbolic groundbreaking ceremony with their Tajik hosts. Construction will likely begin at the Friendship Park site later this spring or early summer. An official decree from the Mayor of Dushanbe is expected at any moment, the final step authorizing the project to proceed. "Nothing's over 'till it's over", as they say, but this groundbreaking will mark a major milestone in the Boulder-Dushanbe relationship. Our next steps will be to select the winning contractor and to complete fundraising based on the costs of the winning bid.

Major Cyber Café Campaign Announced

Don Mock, President of BDSC, says the final push, "a major capital fundraising campaign for the Cyber Café is planned to begin immediately after receiving the official decree from the Mayor of Dushanbe authorizing start of construction." Current and former Boulder Mayors Ruzzin, Toor, Greenlee, Durgin, and Jourgensen have all agreed to serve as Honorary Co-Chairs for this campaign.

To date, BDSC has raised around \$340K in cash and in-kind donations of the estimated \$740K required to complete the basic components of the project. The Boulder City Council has also helped tremendously by extending the Cyber Cafe Loan Program, which allows BDSC to collect another \$255K from private sources as loans that will be repaid (with 6% annual interest) starting around the year 2015 from revenues that the City of Boulder collects from the Teahouse.

If you would like more information about participating in the Loan Program, please contact Don Mock by email at

Upcoming Events

Annual Navruz Celebration – Sunday March 19, 12:00pm
– Boulder Dushanbe Teahouse – Free

The annual celebration of the Persian New Year with food and entertainment. See the article below for more details.

Navruz Dinner – Sunday March 19th – Boulder-Dushanbe Teahouse – \$30 per person (excludes tax and gratuity)

The nice folks at the **Boulder-Dushanbe Teahouse** will host a fundraiser following the Navruz celebration. A multi-course Tajik family-style feast will be served with 30% of proceeds going to the Cyber Café fund. Contact the Teahouse 303-442-4993 for more information and reservations.

Fashion Tea – Thursday May 18, 2006 afternoon – Boulder Dushanbe Teahouse

Our 3rd Fashion Show to recruit new members. Contact Leslie Hinds (lhinds@comcast.net, 303-652-3329) for more information or to volunteer.

If you have ideas for other events, please contact Karla Friar at 303-786-8015 or by email kcfriar@hotmail.com.

2006 Boulder Navruz Festival to Celebrate Cyber Café Groundbreaking

Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities will celebrate the Persian New Year, Navruz, on the afternoon of Sunday, March 19, 2006 with a free, public festival at the Boulder-Dushanbe Teahouse and on the adjacent plaza. Events this year include Tajik and Central Asian dancing and music. Tajik crafts and food will be available, along with information about the people and culture of Tajikistan.

Navruz festivities will start at 12 p.m. on the plaza next to the Boulder-Dushanbe Teahouse or inside the Teahouse depending on the weather. All events are free and open to the public.

At 3:00 p.m., the Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities will conduct a symbolic groundbreaking ceremony next to the Teahouse recognizing the Cyber Café project. The Boulder ceremony will celebrate the occurrence of the official groundbreaking ceremony in Dushanbe. As part of the celebration, we plan to plant a tree next to the Boulder Teahouse that will symbolize the growth of friendship and understanding between our two peoples and our mutual

Seeking Volunteers!

Newsletter Editor

A new editor is needed ASAP for putting together and mailing the newsletter. Estimated time commitment is eight to ten hours every two months. Responsibilities include collecting and editing articles, working with printer to publish this newsletter 6 times per year. Skills with MS Word, HTML and email are required.

Fundraising Committee – Don Mock (Chair)

Volunteers are needed to help raise funds for the construction of the new Cyber Café in Dushanbe. Estimated time commitment is two to four hours per month.

Public Awareness Committee – (Committee Chair open)

The Public Awareness Committee is seeking a chairperson and volunteers. The Committee's task is to generate public awareness of BDSC and its projects. Estimated time commitment is two to four hours per month.

Volunteer Coordinator Lois Leonhardi asks you to contact her for more information about filling important roles in BDSC (email: Lois@Leonhardi.com or work phone: 303-302-6448).



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

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

Treasurer's Report Fiscal Year 2005

Ron West, BDSC Treasurer, reports the following financial summary for fiscal year 2005:

2005 BDSC GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

	Budgeted for 2005	Actual for 2005
Opening Balance	\$ 8,568.35	\$ 9,083.37
Receipts	<u>9,710.00</u>	<u>12,063.98</u>
Total Opening + Receipts	<u>18,278.35</u>	<u>21,137.35</u>
Expenses	<u>13,555.00</u>	<u>12,849.30</u>
Balance 12/31/05	<u>\$ 4,723.35</u>	<u>\$ 8,389.05</u>

CYBER CAFÉ FUND SUMMARY

from inception (2000) through January 27, 2006

Total Receipts	\$ 342,386.68
Expenditures (architecture, construction administration, fundraising, travel, and other)	<u>220,162.93</u>
Cash on Hand	122,223.75
Restricted funds	<u>2,364.47</u>
Cash Available	\$ 119,859.28

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**