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ASCI Newsletter

October 2019

Promoting International Partnerships



Follow ASCI activities on the web!
<http://ashevillesistercities.org>

SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT WORLD WIDE WEDNESDAY PROGRAM!
October 23, 7:00-9:00pm, the BLOCK off biltmore, 39 S. Market Street
Free for Members!

Follow us on Facebook! Keep up with ASCI news.

Mission Statement: Asheville Sister Cities, Inc. promotes peace, understanding, cooperation and sustainable partnerships through formalized agreements between International cities and the City of Asheville, North Carolina. Website: www.ashevillesistercities.org

Message from the President

by Karon Korp



Are You A Visionary?

When we think of the qualities of being a ‘visionary’, several larger than life personalities may immediately come to mind. People who have made a life changing difference to large numbers of people, created impactful change, saved lives, made dreams become real. Changed the world. And you know what? That’s what we do through Asheville Sister Cities, though on a smaller, more intimate scale. Through our friendships, collaborative efforts and connections with our sister cities, we create a lasting impact in people’s lives, all over the world.

So, back to my question. Are you a visionary? Step into a leadership role with us and be a part of making incredible things happen. I invite you to contact me so we can discuss the opportunities!

We’ve got so many wonderful things to report in this issue, and an exciting line up of Fall Events you’ll want to attend. And great news to share – we’ve got an office space leased at the United Way building downtown we’ve moved into, and are excited to put down some roots, and roll up our sleeves.

The UNCA Alumni Group and sister city members that traveled to Scotland this summer had an amazing experience. And the Valladolid Committee has an exciting and meaningful project to benefit a school and students there. Our planning for 2020 is well under way, and are ready to facilitate wonderful opportunities for ASCI members and our sister city family abroad.

Bring your vision, join us, and be involved in creating a better world.

FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES TO SARAH AND BENOIT DELCOURT!

The San Cristóbal de las Casas group reluctantly says farewell to Sarah and Benoît as they begin their new life adventure in Aix-en-Provence, France, to be near their children and grandchildren (one in Italy and one in Spain). Both have been very involved with ASCI, participating in delegations there for midwifery, school supplies, water projects and the wheelchair project. They have both hosted actors here in Asheville for Palenque Rojo and Tzakbu

performances and as well as hosting other delegation visitors. They have made many friends in San Cristóbal and worked to further the mission of ASCI and our committee. Our very best to them both! With many thanks and much love, from the SCdLC Committee. And from their Asheville Sister Cities friends as well!



**Dunkeld & Birnam
Committee donates £1000 for restoration of Robert Burns home**

A TRIBUTE TO Jenifer Morgan

ASCI has been fortunate to not only develop friendships with hands across the sea and in other countries, but we get to know each other better right here in our own back yard.

From: Administrative Secretary <adseccicelo@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, September 15, 2019, 05:17:45 PM EDT

Subject: Jenifer Morgan

To let you know, Jenifer Morgan died this morning. She was at home with Linda, who notified Dr. Mitchell and the CCI death and burial committee, and also neighbors. Jenifer had friends far and wide and was involved in many activities



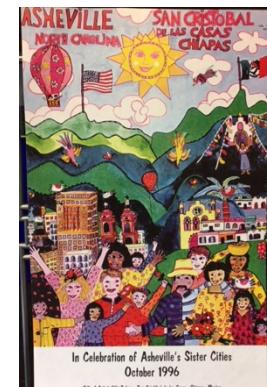
If you've never heard of Celo Community in Western North Carolina, Wikipedia tells us that "The Celo Community Constitution states as its overriding purpose "to provide an opportunity for its members to enjoy a life that includes personal expression, neighborly friendship and cooperation, and appreciative care of the natural environment." Asheville Sister Cities was honored to be associated with Celo through Jenifer.

The Celo community was founded in 1937 by the Morgan family in Celo, NC. An offshoot is the Morgan School and Camp, which has served as a peace center, bringing Jews and Arab youth together. Likewise, during the turbulent years in Ireland, youth from both the North and South interacted here together.

This was the community in which Jenifer Morgan was raised and from which she began her life-long quest of serving the global community promoting the value of all people.

Jenifer was at home with the likes of Celo community members, among them a world-renowned pianist, Lillian Krause. Another was a retired doctor who once worked with Albert Schweitzer in the Lambaréné, Gabon hospital in Africa. Likewise, Jenifer was just as comfortable sharing ideas with the indigenous people of what would become ASCI's first Mexican sister city, St. Cristóbal de las Casas.

"Jenifer will forever be in my heart". The sentiment of Mexican artist and friend Kiki Suárez from San Cristóbal.



The Beginning of a Sister City Program

Jenifer Morgan invited Becca Heskamp, Mary Jackson, and me to join her quest seeking a sister city relationship between Asheville and San Cristóbal de Las Casas in Chiapas, Mexico. This resulted in Beatriz Ibarrola, the head of the Departamento de Lenguas of the University of Chiapas in San Cristóbal, a branch of UNACH (La Universidad Autónoma de Chiapas) to join in launching the relationship. Letters of agreement between UNACH and Mayland Community College in Burnsville, which serves Yancey, Mitchell and Avery Counties, were drawn up.

During our visit to San Cristobal in 1991 we were hosted by Judit Franco and Edmundo Ortiz and their daughter Judina, and sons, Edmundo, Jr, and Carlos. This was the beginning of life-long friendships. Becca, Mary, Jenifer and I studied with Marissa Avila Losada at UNACH. Once again we established a life-long friendship.

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Judina, our hosts' daughter, was our guest to attend Mountain Heritage High School in Yancey County for the 1991-1992 school year. Judina lived with Jenifer first, then with me, and then with her good friend, Ticiana, an exchange student from Brazil, and her host family in Burnsville.

-- Jenifer's friend, **Jane Goldthwait**

"I was fortunate enough to see Jenifer yesterday, quite by chance, at our local co-op. She was her usual, sweet and friendly self. It was so shocking to hear today that she is no longer with us.

Several months after I arrived in Celo mid-1993, I heard that she and Jane (Goldthwait) were in San Cristóbal at the time of the Zapatista Uprising, and consequently many of us were concerned. Upon her return I inquired anxiously about her safety. She just smiled that serene smile of hers and assured me she was fine and had not been afraid. She seemed quite unflappable.

I have always been grateful to her, and to you Jane, for bringing San Cristóbal to Asheville Sister Cities and being instrumental in starting the long and rich history we have had with the city and many dear friends there.

She will be much missed by many in the Celo Community, Yancey County & beyond.

Warmest Regards, **Sarah Delcourt**"

(Both Jane and Sarah have lived in San Cristóbal and taught in their schools. Sarah and her husband Benoit have just recently moved back to France. Jane resides in Asheville).

"As we pause to remember Jenifer Morgan, Carroll and I feel very honored to have known her and spent time together developing our Sister City of San Cristóbal in 1996. Jenifer was a warm, compassionate human being who worked so diligently to improve the lives of those in difficult situations here and in Mexico. She was remarkable from an early age and made a huge impact on all who benefitted from knowing her. One of our strongest memories is the day our delegation to San Cristóbal had a private audience with Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia and Jenifer lovingly presented him with a pottery chalice, handcrafted in Spruce Pine for this occasion. Jenifer's great respect for this man was obvious and they shared their devotion to the causes they both fought for. Jenifer will be missed by all who knew her and the San Cristóbal Sister City is forever grateful for this amazing connection she worked to make possible. "

Gwen and Carroll Hughes

And so to you dear friend Jenifer,

Un adiós cariñoso!

Karpenisi (Greece) committee news

The Karpenisi committee is planning a delegation from Asheville to Karpenisi in May 2020. Our intended itinerary will include stops in Athens, Delphi and the Peloponnese, as well as several days in Karpenisi, spending time with the people and visiting the local villages and the monastery of Proussos. If you are interested in going, please contact Dr. Sophie Mills (smills (at) unca.edu) for more information about price, dates etc. Next meeting at Metro Wines, Nov. 4, 6pm. Contact Sophie for the dates of upcoming meetings.



ASCI's newest committee chair, Eboné Graham



Eboné Graham is a mother of 6 children and a proud citizen of Asheville, NC. Having relocated to the area in 2015, she and her family have fallen in love with the Land of Sky. With her commitment to social justice and equity, Eboné works as Sales and Community Coordinator of The Asheville View, a web show elevating marginalized perspectives as a program of Equity Over Everything which seeks to bridge the equity gap for all people. After learning of that she is of Yoruba descent, she studied Ifa, the ancient spiritual tradition of the Yoruba in Nigeria, West Africa. It was in practicing this tradition that she learned of her connection to the Goddess Oshun, the custodian of the feminine essence. Eboné is thrilled to Chair the Committee of Osogbo, Nigeria for Sister Cities Asheville, the home of Oshun, because she is able to connect with the culture of her ancestors as well as share the unique culture of Asheville globally. When she is not mothering, you can find Eboné curled up with a glass of Cabernet Sauvignon, watching the latest Netflix series.

Osogbo Committee Update

Being inducted as the Committee Chair of Osogbo, Nigeria in August 2019, Eboné Graham is busy about the task of carrying out the initiatives of her predecessors. In her commitment to sharing African culture and global awareness, she is engaging her local community to join her efforts to support and strengthen Asheville's connection with Osogbo and is planning an event for early 2020.

NEW THINGS HAPPENING FOR SAN CRISTÓBAL DE LAS CASAS

A new connection has been made locally with Shannon Fields, Spanish teacher at A C Reynolds High School, to begin a *video exchange program* with Ines Paniagua and her class in Chiapas. Details are being sorted out and we look forward to seeing the results of this sharing project.

We are moving forward to develop an exchange for local weavers to travel to Chiapas in the late spring to hold workshops with Maya weavers. This will be sponsored by the Sister City committee in San Cristobal. Future plans will be for the Maya weavers to travel to Asheville and hold demonstrations and workshops here. Other skilled crafts may be included and recruited for this workshop exchange and will be announced later.

San Cristóbal Committee is also spearheading a Children's Art Show for 2020 that will display art from all of our Sister Cities. A planning committee meeting will be held soon to lay out details and guidelines. More to come!

Our committee will meet with the Valladolid Committee for a few months while we assist with their fund raising for the Fan Project. Make sure you read (in this issue) about the special event taking place this month to help with the ‘fan raising’ - and please respond quickly!!
Thanks to all. Gwen Hughes – gwengh (at) charter.net



THE SCHOOL FAN PROJECT FOR VALLADOLID.

The Valladolid Committee has partnered with the San Cristóbal Committee, the Asheville Breakfast Rotary, Mars Hill Rotary and friends of ASCI to provide funds for **50 fans** to be installed in 5 schools in Valladolid. Classroom temperatures are reaching the high 90 degrees in hot months and there is no A/C. The Valladolid Committee and the Club Rotario de Valladolid are also funding 20 fans and installation costs. We all hope to accomplish this goal by the first week of December so that installation can begin. Fans will be purchased locally and installed by the School System maintenance department. Each fan costs \$70usd, making our total goal for Asheville \$3500. After our World Wide Wednesday event "Sip and Shop" on the 25th, we are almost halfway to our goal. Thanks to Dana Irwin, of Irwin Designs, who designed a hand-held fan that was given to each sponsor of a fan at our event. Our thanks as well to Cam McQueen, of THE BLOCK off biltmore, for sponsoring our "Sip and Shop" Fan Raising event.

If you would like to sponsor a fan, please send your check to ASCI, PO Box 2214, Asheville, 28802. A hand-held fan and thank you letter will be sent to you.

Our next committee meeting will be a joint meeting with the San Cristobal Committee on Thursday Oct. 10th at 5:45pm at Waterbird (197 Charlotte St.).

Our next event will be a Halloween/ Dia de los Muertos party at Hughes Hallow on Saturday night, Oct.26th from 6-10pm. There will be food, drinks, music, bonfire, costume contest, etc. Be sure to mark your calendars - you won't want to miss it! Please RSVP - this event is limited to 40 people!! Our sincere thanks to all, Janell Cooper.

janellcooper7 (at) gmail.com

School Fan Fundraiser

For the benefit of 5 schools in Valladolid, Mexico, in need of proper ventilation and a tolerable learning environment.



\$70(usd) per ceiling fan.

Total goal: 50 fans



**You have the opportunity to make a direct impact! To donate & for more information, please contact the Valladolid Sister City chair:
janellcooper7 (at) gmail.com**



Asheville Sister Cities Saumur Committee presents:

UN DÎNER FRANÇAIS

November 3, 2019 | 5-7 PM

at Eliada's PARC Building-Asheville, NC

Help ASCI and join us in raising funds to support the Saumur students coming to Asheville in February of 2020!

**Sunday, November 3rd, 2019
5pm – 7pm
Eliada's PARC Building
2 Compton Drive, Asheville, NC 28806**

Music featuring Albi & Joe from Albi and the Lifters

Five course meal including charcuterie and cheese platters. Coq au Vin, dessert buffet and more, plus vegetarian options like Ratatouille. Your meal comes with a glass of wine.

Please check out the event on Facebook.

Tickets \$50, available on Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/french-country-dinner-tickets-74820071849>

OUR 2019 CORPORATE MEMBERS
Earheart Network, Kudzu Brands, Purplecat Networks

President - Karon Korp	Karon(at)ashevillerealtygroup.com
Vice President	
Secretary – Alice Keller	gakeller(at)gakeller.com
Treasurer – Jackie Craig	appcraft(at)bellsouth.net

ASCI COMMITTEE CONTACTS

ASCI Board Meeting	3 rd Thursday of each month – 6:00 pm <i>United Way Office Conference Room, 50 S. French Broad Ave</i>
Dunkeld-Birnam Committee	time and date TBA – Contact Committee Chair <i>Rick Lutovsky – rlutovsky (at) gmail.com</i>
San Cristóbal Committee	2 nd Thursday, 5:30 pm <i>Gwen Hughes – gwengh (at) charter.net</i>
Saumur Committee	4 th Monday of each month – 5:30pm <i>Jessica Coffield – jeallen8 (at) gmail.com</i>
Karpenisi Committee	1 st Monday of the month (Nov 04 at 6pm, Metro Wines) <i>Sophie Mills – smills (at) unca.edu</i>
Valladolid Committee	4 th Wednesday of the month – 6:00pm <i>Janell Cooper – janellcooper7 (at) gmail.com</i>
Osogbo Committee	1 st Monday of the month (contact Chair for time and venue) <i>Eboné Graham – ebone.graham9 (at) gmail.com</i>
Vladikavkaz Committee	Time and Date TBA – Contact Committee Chair <i>Constance Richards – schtanzi (at) aol.com</i>
Global Outlook Committee	<i>Jay Harris – jayharrisglobal (at) gmail.com</i>



USA



France



Greece



Mexico



Nigeria



Russia



Scotland

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