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# ASCI Newsletter

## October 2018

*Promoting International Partnerships*



### Our Saumur Guests

*Caroline Rabault and Jean-Michel Marchand, Kelly Biers, UNCA*

*Follow ASCI activities on the web!*

<http://ashevillesistercities.org>

*Like 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](http://www.ashevillesistercities.org)

## Message from the President

by Karon Korp



### *Dream Big...*

My goodness. Asheville Sister Cities has had quite a year, and it's only October. We've hosted guests from four of our sister cities: Osogbo in April, Karpenisi in June, Saumur in September, and San Cristobal de las Casas, also in September. We've held four World Wide Wednesday programs highlighting several of our sister city programs (at THE BLOCK off biltmore). Had an outrageously incredible amber jewelry and sculpture exhibit just a few weeks ago at Jewels That Dance, lectures and a photography exhibit at Western Carolina University, participated in the Global Education Summit for educators Hosted by Buncombe County Schools in August, and we're preparing for our final WWW event celebrating Dunkeld and Birnam, Scotland, on October 17<sup>th</sup> (see related info in this issue); don't miss it! Planning is also underway with a committee headed by Jacquie Nightingale for "GLOBAL GLITZ 2", our annual fundraiser, emphasis on the word 'fun', to be held December 8<sup>th</sup>, at the new Foundry Hotel, 51 South Market Street, in Asheville (get your tickets on our website now!)

The schedule for each group that visited this year included schools, universities, community organizations, area businesses, and lots of hours finalizing details by the sister city committees and chairs. When we laid out our year in January, and added to it as we went along, we were dreaming BIG. So I wonder, what are YOUR dreams, and how would YOU like to make a difference? We encourage you to get involved with our leadership team of ASCI. We need your talents and skills to keep growing, and move consistently to the realization of even *more* dreams.

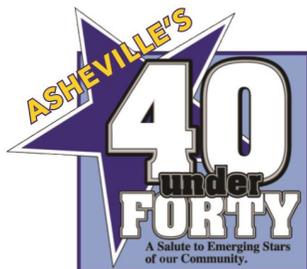
Each sister city is now discussing possibilities for programs and projects in 2019, and you are invited to join in that dialogue. Check in with a Committee Chair of your choice, and let them know of your interest and share your ideas, then find out when their next meeting is, and participate.

We are a vibrant, thriving, growing non-profit. Your energy is needed now to help us chart the way forward. Whatever your dreams, I hope they come true...

### ***LEND YOUR WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA SKILLS TO ASCI!***

We are looking for talented members (and volunteers) to help us with publicity, managing our website, putting together the E-edition of our newsletter, and keeping our events active in social media. Know someone like that?

Please, have them get in touch with Karon Korp (email address in this issue) so we can talk about the opportunities, and provide some training. These positions to be filled as soon as possible, as our much loved web guru Jeremy Carter will be starting on a new project.



### ***We Salute One of ASCI's Rising Stars!***

Our congratulations to Saumur Chair Jessica Coffield, who was recognized at a gala dinner on September 27<sup>th</sup> at the DoubleTree, Biltmore, as one of Asheville's "40 Under 40" Stars! A well-deserved honor, Jessica does so many things in our community and for Asheville Sister Cities.

GLOBAL EDUCATION SUMMIT



World View  
August 14, 2018 – North Buncombe High School  
Hosted by Buncombe County Schools

UNC  
WORLD VIEW  
DEVELOPING GLOBAL EDUCATORS

BUNCOMBE  
PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THEIR TOMORROW

With support provided by LEAF COMMUNITY ARTS

**ASCI HIGHLIGHTED AT THE GLOBAL EDUCATION SUMMIT**

On August 14<sup>th</sup>, Asheville Sister Cities took part in the World View Global Education Summit hosted by Buncombe County Schools, in conjunction with UNC’s World View Program, with support provided by LEAF Community Arts. It was a terrific way to talk with educators and teachers, and connect with many different area groups that have an international focus. ASCI displayed the variety of our programs, projects, and student exchange opportunities.

**FROM the KARPENISI Committee**



August 15<sup>th</sup> saw the second 2018 WWW (World Wide Wednesday) event featuring Karpensisi, held at THE BLOCK off biltmore. People came out to enjoy Greek music, a delicious buffet of Greek-inspired



*Choco-ruins*

vegan food, including favorites like

spanakopita and melitzanosalata, wines from Greece, provided for purchase by Andy Hale from Metro Wines, who also gave a brief talk on Greek wine. The evening was completed with talks on Greek hospitality ancient and modern, by Sophie Mills and food in the ancient and modern Mediterranean worlds by Amy Lanou, both of UNC Asheville. *Yassas!*

**A meeting of International Guests**

Our three amber artists and our two French guests from Saumur enjoyed breakfast at the Corner Kitchen in the company of members of their respective committees. Conversation, lubricated by copious coffee, took place three languages, English, French, and Spanish.



in

## **AMBER ARTISTS FROM SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS**

Victor Ramirez and Alvaro Alaniz arrived in Asheville on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September and were home hosted by Marcos Martinez, a painter living here from San Cristóbal. On the 16<sup>th</sup> the artists moved to Hughes Hollow and were joined by Luke Miller, who has moved from Denver to San Cristóbal and is a part of their work studio. And thus began a full schedule of presentations and events to highlight their amazing, incredible and gorgeous work done in amber mined in Chiapas.

Our thanks to Paula Dawkins and Carol Schniedewind and staff of Jewels That Dance for the wonderful display of the amber artists' work and the reception held on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

A Presentation was made to a very full house of students



at Haywood Community College, followed by tours and workshop to students in the Jewelry Department there. Our thanks to Matt Heimborg, Dean of the Art Dept., Robert Blanton, Professor of Metal and Jewelry Design and other faculty members who joined in to make this visit to HCC truly exciting. Contacts were made to discuss future efforts for exchanges.

*Amber glows under ultraviolet light!*

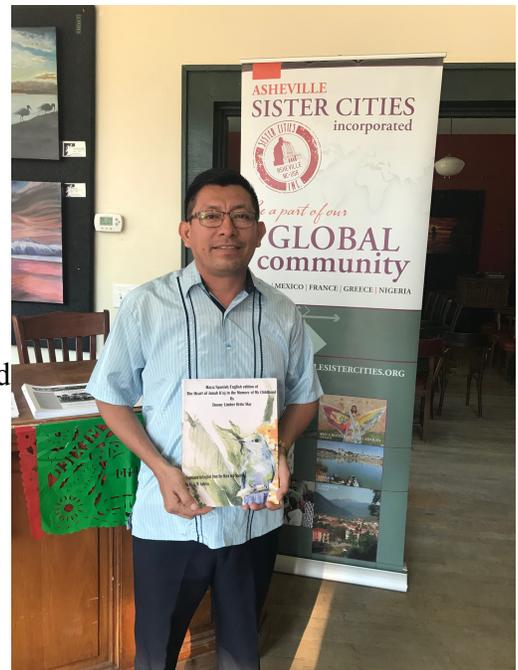
Two separate visits were made to ABTech – thanks to Sharon Trammel, Beth Bond and Caitlin Hettich, for time in the Art Department and thanks to Kristin Schlaefter for the presentation time in the Spanish Department. Kelly McEnany, ASCI member and Chair, Behavior Sciences & Global Ed Coordinator, Division of Arts & Sciences, A-BTech, will be available to help us make

future connections for students and staff.

And of course, the Mexican Committee's World Wide Wednesday evening was great fun. Our evening included a presentation by the artists, a reading by visiting Maya poet, Donny Brito May, great food and salsa lessons. Thanks to Cam McQueen and staff of Block off Biltmore for a great evening.

The artists were treated to s'mores around the campfire at Hughes Hollow, cooked by Alaina, daughter of Paul Worley and Melissa Birkhofer. Thanks to all Committee members Jane Goldthwait and BJ Tankersley for hosting dinner gatherings and sightseeing days, that gave the amber team a good overview of our beautiful Asheville.

The SCDLC committee in partnership with WCU and UNCA hosted indigenous author Donny Brito May to Western North Carolina in September as well. Donny Brito May, MA in Intercultural Education from UIMQRoo (Intercultural Maya University of Quintana Roo) is the winner of several state and national poetry awards and is a strong new voice in contemporary Maya letters. He currently teaches Maya language and culture at the UIMQRoo. Many



thanks to the coordination of Paul Worley and Melissa Birkhofer with his travels and logistics. While here, he visited and taught classes at UNCA about Mayan Cosmography and intercultural education. He also taught a Spanish class at WCU while here. At Mars Hill University, he gave a talk on Popol Vuh, a cultural narrative that recounts the mythology and history of the K'iche' people who inhabit the Guatemalan Highlands northwest of present-day Guatemala City. Donny did two tri lingual poetry readings in Asheville at THE BLOCK off biltmore and at WCU. Many thanks to the coordination of Paul Worley and Melissa Birkhofer with his travels and logistics.



***Asheville Article Appears in “The Bridge” newspaper in Dunkeld/Birnam, Scotland***

Since our new sister city/twinning partnership began with Dunkeld and Birnam, Perthshire, Scotland last year, chairs Rick Lutovsky and Doug Orr, Asheville committee members, and Fiona Ritchie, Dunkeld/Birnam Friends of Asheville Chair, and members of her committee, have contributed a regular column to *The Bridge*, the community

*(LtoR) St. Rep. Susan Fisher, Brenda Roddy, Doug Orr, Fiona Ritchie, Rick Lutovsky, Oscar Wong, Mayor Esther Manheimer, Alasdair Wylie, Karon Korp*



publication for Dunkeld/Birnam. Check out this month’s article in the ‘CONNECT’ column on their web page, and in this issue, a story about the literary history of Asheville.

<http://www.dunkeldandbirnamnews.co.uk/>

**Our Scottish guests in Asheville:** Appropriately enough, at the October WWW, Oscar Wong from Highland Brewing will be discussing single malt scotch. At left is a photo of our visitors from our Sister Cities Dunkeld/Birnam, Fraser And Susan Penny with Darcy and Doug on a visit to the Biltmore Estate during the first exchange with Scotland. A sample of the stunning Chihuly glass exhibit is in the background.



Fraser is minister of the Dunkeld Cathedral Presbyterian Church of Scotland and exchanged pulpits for two weeks with Steve Runholt, minister of the Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church. Steve was so impressed by the experience and the beauty of Dunkeld/Birnam, straddling the banks of the River Tay, that he would like to make it an annual tradition. Fraser and Susan likewise had a great experience and were hosted also by a number of our Sister City Dunkeld/Birnam Committee members. They resided in the Warren Wilson President’s home as President Lynn Morton was out of town. Steve resided in the church manse, adjacent to the Cathedral and the River Tay.

## Connect ... Linking Asheville, North Carolina, USA and Dunkeld/Birnam

### The Power of Words By Karon Korp, President, Asheville Sister Cities

One of the many delights in a twinning between cities is discovering deeper connections that bind us together. As our friendships grow, so does our appreciation of the unique gifts each community brings to the other. From the earliest days, the southern Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina were home to great storytellers. For thousands of years, the native Cherokee peoples shared their history and culture through oral tradition until Sequoyah invented a syllabary and gave them the ability to write them down.

And since that time, the mountains have called to a steady stream of authors, poets and artists who would shape the creative fabric of our community, crafting tales from a rocking chair on the front porch that made their way to international audiences.

Our best-known native son, the novelist Thomas Wolfe, created quite a ruckus in Asheville when he published his first book, *Look Homeward Angel*. F. Scott Fitzgerald and his wife Zelda also came to our city to find inspiration, ultimately encountering tragedy instead.

Short stories were the hallmark of William Sydney Porter (O. Henry), who after marrying his childhood sweetheart, returned with her to our town, no doubt infusing his characters with charm. Author Wilma Dykeman celebrated our natural treasure in *The French Broad*, and John Ehle has shared the traditions of the South in his many works of fiction, including *The Winter People* and *The Journey of August King*. Award-winning writer Gail Godwin moved to Asheville as a young girl in the 40's spending her formative years here, and has since published almost 20 books. With the release of his first novel in 1997, *Cold Mountain*, author Charles Frazier took his place on the world's literary stage, following that work with two more books, *Thirteen Moons* and *Nightwoods*. Then there is Elizabeth Kostova, whose first novel, *The Historian*, became number one on the New York Times best seller list. Her family are long time Asheville residents. Dozens of authors have called our mountains home, including Ron Rash, American poet, novelist and short story writer who is the Parris Distinguished Professor in Appalachian Cultural Studies at Western Carolina University, and Wiley Cash, a UNC-Asheville graduate who wrote *A Land More Kind Than Home*.

Last and certainly not least, sister city (twinning) cochairs Doug Orr and Fiona Ritchie recently collaborated on the New York Times Best Seller, *Wayfaring Strangers: The Musical Voyage from Scotland and Ulster to Appalachia*, sharing with us the deep roots and cultural traditions of our heritage.

These wonderful titles, and so many more, can be found downtown in our favorite area bookstore, Malaprop's Bookstore/Café. Founded in 1982, owner Emoke B'Racz says of her reason for opening the business, "I wanted Malaprop's to be a place where poetry mattered, where a woman's words were as important as a man's, where excellence was customary, where good writing had a home, where I could nurture my addiction to literature, and play, enjoy, and entertain people drawn to quality books." Against the backdrop of historical architecture and scenic wonders, our vibrant and eclectic community continues to attract people to our region, nourishing their creative spirit and inspiring a new generation of storytellers. We look forward to sharing those stories with you, our newest Sister City, and to learning more about your historic past as well.



Come with ASCI to the Asheville Symphony  
January 19<sup>th</sup> for a Saint-Saëns event.

If you would like to join us, please contact Jessica Coffield.



## ASHEVILLE SISTER CITIES' ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2018 • 7 UNTIL 11 PM

THE FOUNDRY HOTEL

51 SOUTH MARKET STREET

\$45 MEMBERS ONLY • [www.ashevillesistercities.org](http://www.ashevillesistercities.org)

\$50 ADVANCE • \$60 AT THE DOOR

CASH BAR • SILENT AUCTION • DOOR PRIZES

MUSIC BY WESTSOUND • ROCK TO SOUNDS OF R+B/CLASSICS

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

THE FIRST EVENT AT THE NEWLY RENOVATED FOUNDRY BUILDING  
ON THE HISTORICAL "BLOCK"

## ***Hommage aux chevaux!***

### ***Delegation visit from our French sister city, Saumur.***

*by Jessica Coffield*



The arrival of Hurricane Florence in mid-September coincided with the World Equestrian Games (WEG) taking place in Tryon, North Carolina. WEG takes place every four years in a different venue around the world. As the French national Equestrian School is located in Saumur, Jean-Michel Marchand, lately Mayor of Saumur, but recently-named President of Equestrian Affairs, and Caroline Rabault, Director of International Relations, came to WEG to observe the games and cheer on the French competitors. About 250,000 fans from around the world came out to enjoy the games over the two-week competition.

Jean-Michel and Caroline arrived in Asheville Friday, September 14, 2018. Neither of our guests were English speakers, thus the French speakers among the Saumur committee members were pleased to be able to provide translation services.

Saturday Jean-Michel was in Tryon with Saumur Committee members Jessica Coffield and Katherine Morosani; Caroline enjoyed lunch, then shopping and a tour of Urban Orchard Cidery. Everyone met up at Hickory Nut Gap farm and were welcomed by John Ager, NC State Representative. Guests then enjoyed a BBQ dinner and watched Appalachian cloggers.

*Bonnie Parker (UNCA), Kelly Biers (UNCA), Caroline Rabault (Saumur), Allison Weems (UNCA), Elena Adell (UNCA), Ellen Bailey (UNCA)*

Sunday Hurricane Florence brought rain, but that didn't stop a tour of downtown and then lunch and tour of Sierra Nevada brewery. Dinner was at the Smokey Park Supper Club. Members of Rotary were in attendance as well as Asheville's Mayor, Esther Manheimer, and her husband, Mark. A casual dinner ensued, with excellent conversation and welcome speeches.



Monday Jean-Michel was back in Tryon. Caroline went with Jessica, Allison and Rick to meet Stephanie Brown at the Asheville Convention and Visitors Bureau and learned about how Asheville tourism supports development and new community projects in Asheville. From there they went to



UNCA for lunch, on a tour of campus led by two students, and on a tour of OLLI (school for Senior citizens) led by Pascale Couturier. To close the time at UNCA a tea with the language department and the study abroad office was set up to brainstorm ways to connect in the immediate and distant future. Excellent conversations and ideas

*Picnic at the Biltmore Lagoon with (L to R) Jessica, Jean-Michel, Jerry, Caroline, a beautiful table set by Allison and Biltmore House in the background*

abounded. Dinner was at Hemingway's Cuba on the rooftop terrace overlooking a gorgeous sunset with about 16 in the group.

Tuesday saw a group visit to Tryon, including Jean-Michel, Caroline, Jessica, Allison, Sharon and Dick Le Duc, John Sweets and Renee Melchiore, Bruce and Tine Roman. Everyone stayed till 7:30pm. The course was still sloppy from Hurricane Florence in places, but the Games went on.

Wednesday included tour of City Hall led by Ken Merritt and welcome by Interim City Manager Cathy Ball. The rest of the day was spent at Biltmore, including the gardens and Chihuly sculptures, lunch

*At the Biltmore Equestrian Center: Caroline and Jerry Plotkin, committee member and Biltmore employee, accompanied by an equine friend.*



at Cedric's, a tour of the house in French, and a tour of the Equestrian Center. The day ended with a picnic by the lagoon with a lovely view of Biltmore House from a distance. That evening the group joined other ASCI members and community sponsors at THE BLOCK off biltmore for World Wide Wednesday hosted by the two Mexican Sister Cities. The amber artists featured their work at the event and everyone interested was taught salsa dancing.

Thursday featured Brunch at the Corner Kitchen with the Amber Artists. Shopping around Biltmore Village then Jean-Michel went back to Tryon. Caroline and Allison went to Tennessee to visit Allison's childhood home.

Friday John Sweets took Jean-Michel and Caroline for a trip along the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Saturday Jean-Michel once again was back in Tryon. The remainder of the day was for relaxing and repacking. Caroline and Jean-Michel needed an extra suitcase that Gwen Hughes graciously supplied! Our guests took their flight home on Sunday. End of an excellent visit with many promises of a bright future for the relationship between Asheville and Saumur!

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*A note about the French National Equestrian School in Saumur:*

Over the years, French royalty, such as King Louis XIV (1643-1715) as well as foreign military officers, such as General George Patton, studied there. During the beginning of the Second World War, German troops invading France were making their way west, planning a route going through Saumur. The Equestrian School's cadets, since it is a military outpost, at first put up a furious resistance. German officers approached the school and explained to the cadets that their resistance should stop. The army would not attack Saumur, since a number of the German officers had themselves studied horsemanship there, and would certainly not attack their own school!

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ASHEVILLE  
SISTER CITIES  
inc.

Be a part of our  
GLOBAL community

## WORLD WIDE WEDNESDAYS

# Celebrate Scotland!



Celebrate our newest Sister City at the October installment of World Wide Wednesdays! Dunkeld-Birnam will be the focus of this fun evening, which will include:

- Single malt Scotch presentation by Oscar Wong of Highland Brewing
- Scottish Music performed by Doug and Darcy Orr
- Information on UNC Asheville's trip to Scotland in 2019, which will include a visit to Dunkeld-Birnam
- Scottish vegan cuisine
- Slide presentation highlighting the many exciting features of Scotland

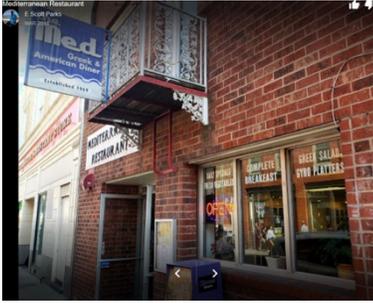
**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 17**  
**7 to 9 p.m.**

**THE BLOCK off biltmore**  
**39 S. Market St.**

**\$10 suggested donation**

[www.ashevillesistercities.org](http://www.ashevillesistercities.org)

***Our visiting ambar (amber) artists relaxing at the Frog Level Brewery***



***A Fond Farewell....***

After almost 44 years in Asheville's oldest restaurant, the downtown fixture and local favorite – the Mediterranean Restaurant – Pete and Paula Apostolopoulos turned over the keys in September to new owners, also partners in Foggy

Mountain on Church Street. Pete and Paula were good friends and supporters of ASCI over the years, frequently hosting delegations and groups, fundraising dinners and providing trays of spanakopita to sister city events. We are happy for them, and yet will miss seeing them in their historic venue. Good luck!



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<b>Past President – Andrew Craig</b>	kurmugon(at)bellsouth.net

**A new way to support ASCI: *Amazon Smile***  
**Go to your Amazon account. Select ASCI as your chosen fund recipient. Next time you access Amazon go to [SMILE.AMAZON.COM](http://SMILE.AMAZON.COM). Thanks!**

**For information and a membership application, go to:**  
<http://www.ashevillesistercities.org/>

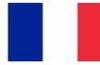
**ASCI CALENDAR OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

ASCI Board Meeting	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month – 6:00 pm <i>Parks &amp; Rec Admin Bldg, 72 Gashes Creek Rd, Asheville</i>
Dunkeld-Birnam Committee	time and date TBA – Contact Committee Chair <i>Rick Lutovsky – rlutovsky(at)gmail.com</i>
San Cristóbal Committee	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 5:30 pm <i>Lori Davis – loel.davis(at)gmail.com</i>
Saumur Committee	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday of each month – 5:30pm <i>Jessica Coffield – jeallen8(at)gmail.com</i>
Karpenisi Committee	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of the month ( <i>next meeting Oct. 29 at Metro Wines</i> ) <i>Sophie Mills – smills(at)unca.edu</i>
Valladolid Committee	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month – 6:00pm <i>Janell Cooper – janellcooper7(at)gmail.com</i>
Osogbo Committee	Nov. 5, 5:45pm, The Collider, Ste 401 (door locked 6pm) (First Monday) <i>Sandra Frempong – sandraf(at)letsexploreafrika.com.</i>
Vladikavkaz Committee	Time and Date TBA – Contact Committee Chair <i>Constance Richards – schtanzi(at)aol.com</i>

*If you have a particular interest in a committee, please contact the chairperson to confirm time & place.*



USA



France



Greece



Mexico



Nigeria



Russia



Scotland

ASHEVILLE SISTER CITIES, INC.

P. O. Box 2214

Asheville, NC 28802