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ASCI Newsletter

April 2016

Promoting International Partnerships

FEATURE

Vladikavkaz artists



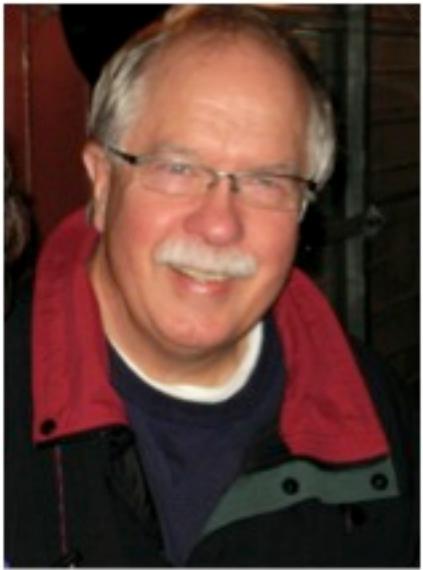
One of the featured artworks recently on display at the Asheville Area Arts Council by artists from our sister city Vladikavkaz. "Landscape" by Natalia Abara.

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

Like us on Facebook - keep up with ASCI news.

Message from the President: From where I sit

By Andrew Craig



We should all stand in awe of the activities and enterprises that Asheville Sister Cities is engaged in during the course of a year. We are now actively engaged, with our partners in the Hendersonville Sister Cities, with planning the two-state meeting (North and South Carolina) to be held here April 16th. We will, no doubt, ask for some volunteer assistance, so please be ready to jump in and help.

And, as I write, some 18 members are purchasing plane tickets and making plans for our delegation visit to Karpenisi in May. And, yes, we are excited! Five students were awarded scholarships for the trip, a cultural event as well as several days in our sister city of Karpenisi to celebrate the relationship between our cities.

In October, a delegation from Valladolid is anticipated, as well as your assistance in home hosting many of these people. Not to forget, on October 2, another great production by Hiram Marina, *Tzakbu*, will be presented at the Diana Wortham Theater.

The Saumur Committee has worked up yet another great wine event: A tasting of the renowned wines of Saumur, Asheville's sister city in France, on: Sunday, April 24, 2016 from 2:00 – 4:00 P.M. At: Metro Wines, 169 Charlotte Street, Asheville. A selection of the wines of Saumur will be served.

As we continue to move forward, I wish to thank all of you who volunteer your time and energy to making our projects and events a success, and I want to encourage you who do not yet volunteer to find a committee that you can contribute to and do so. The rewards are great!

Ancestor Walk Honoring Osogbo, Nigeria

opening the 10th Asheville Butoh Festival April 8, 2016 6:00-7:00 PM

Celebrating the opening of the 10th Asheville Butoh Festival and twenty years of butoh dance in Asheville. Julie Becton Gillum and the Asheville Contemporary Dance theatre collaborate to produce this unique event. Valeria Watson and local dancers open with a traditional Butoh walk April 8th at 6:00 PM, beginning at YMI and ending at the Bebe Theatre in time for Yumiko Yoshioka's performance of "Before the Dawn."

Butoh originated in post-WWII Japan as an artistic reaction to the chaotic climate in the country following the war and the uneasy shift towards democratic values. Butoh dance is a postmodern movement in which formal dance technique is eschewed in favor of primal and idiosyncratic movements. Butoh dance challenges convention and avoids definition in order to reveal the fervent beauty of the unique human spirit.

The Ancestor Walk is a community clearance and healing ritual that honors our Sister City Osogbo, Nigeria on Osogbo Day. Osogbo has been a part of Asheville Sister Cities since 2006. All are welcome to walk with us beginning at 6:00 PM at the corner of Eagle and Market Streets. We are currently rehearsing at the Burton Street Community Center grounds at 8:00 am, Thursday through Sunday. Valeria Watson who formerly was a dancer in Excursus, Black White Les Butoh, and Church Lady is leading the practices. For more information contact Valeria at valrainybiz@charter.net, 828-552-0740.

CALLING ALL FRANCOPHILES & WINE ENTHUSIASTS !

The Committee for Saumur of Asheville Sister Cities, Inc. cordially invites you to join us for a tasting of the renowned wines of Saumur, Asheville's sister city in France, on:

Sunday, April 24, 2016 2:00 – 4:00 P.M.
Metro Wines -- 169 Charlotte Street, Asheville

A selection of the wines of Saumur will be served, accompanied by *hors- d'oeuvres* and the songs of Edith Piaf and other French music.

Tickets are available online at:

<https://metrowinesasheville.com/store/product/saumur-scholarship-fund-benefit-wine-tasting/> or in person at Metro Wines for \$15 per person.

We look forward to “lifting a glass” with you!

The Saumur committee is seeking local artisans to participate in the outdoor market and donations for the Bastille Day Silent auction, July 17.

Speaking of wine – another April Wine Event

Join us for an educational wine tasting hosted by The Asheville School of Wine with Coupe Rose, Minervois, on Wednesday, April 13th from 5 pm to 6:30 pm at Metro Wines. The tasting is "on the house" and parking is free, easy and close.

Visiting us from France, Winemaker Françoise Le Calvez will present her wines while discussing her philosophy of winemaking and the history of the winery in Minervois, France.

About Coupe Rose: Françoise Le Calvez and her enologist husband Pascal Frissant (a.k.a. The Poet from the Loire) work their *domaine* with passion and acumen high in the Mediterranean hinterlands. Their vineyards are in Le Causse and Le Petit Causse (a *causse* refers to an enormous outcropping of exposed rock—in this case, limestone—that supports little more than *garrigue* and can cultivate little more than olives and vines). These two delimited areas make up the highest growing zones in the Minervois appellation. At 750 to 1,350 feet above sea level, these zones have relatively cool nights and the growing season is the longest in the AOC (*domaines* down on the plain often begin harvesting a full two weeks earlier). The wines from Coupe Roses have excellent acidity and freshness, which Françoise adores, without any plodding, overripe character, which she avoids like the plague.

More detail here: <http://www.metrowinesasheville.com/wine-blogs/blog/entry/chateau-coupe-roses-minervois-tasting-with-winemaker>

Save the date: Greek Dinner June 05. Venue: TBA

Vibrant Valladolid!

By Karon Korp, Valladolid Chair

A busy year ahead for the Valladolid committee!

Introductory Spanish Classes will be taught every Tuesday in May, 5 weeks – \$25.00, held by our talented Gabriela Aragonez, pre-registration requested. Workbooks, conversation, and an informal way to practice your Spanish!

We are looking for two home hosts – ideally Asheville High School families – to host two new female exchange students for the school year beginning in August.

We are planning for a **DELEGATION FROM VALLADOLID!** It will take place in October, with home hosts needed, and lots of activities and counterpart meetings to be organized. Help wanted!

Our pen pal program is in full swing, and just received letters from Mexico for Jones Elementary, Vance Elementary, Hall Fletcher Elementary, and Glen Arden Elementary. We know these exchanges excite the students to keep in touch with friends – amigos – in both countries.

We have plans in the works for dance classes, cooking classes, a movie night, a special Mexican dinner night, and much more this year! **GET INVOLVED!**

The Valladolid Committee meets the LAST Wednesday of every month, at the Parks & Rec Admin Building at Rec Park, 72 Gashes Creek Road (off Swannanoa River Road).

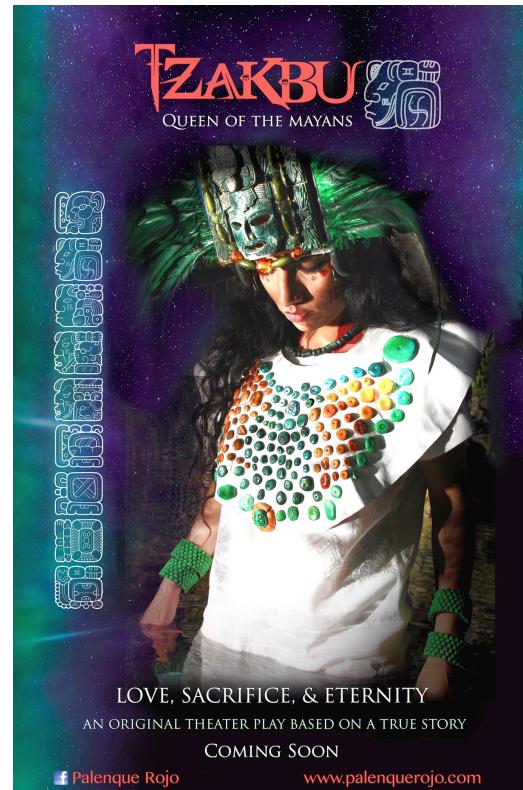
Call Karon Korp, 828-231-0041 to register, if you can help with any of these projects, or for more information!

TZAKBU – Queen of the Maya Save the date!

Sept 30th at Western Carolina University

**Oct 2nd at Diana Wortham -
matinee at 2:00 pm, evening
performance at 7:30 pm**

**Mayan performers from
San Cristóbal de las Casas**



Thoughts of Home Exhibition Brings Together Works of Seven Vladikavkaz Artists - Past and Present

An exhibition curated by Vladikavkaz Committee Chair Constance E. Richards, and co-sponsored by Asheville Sister Cities and the Asheville Area Arts Council, brought together a comprehensive collection of paintings, sculptures, jewelry, stained glass, and applied arts by seven artists originally from Asheville's Sister City in Russia, Vladikavkaz. The month-long show was part of the *Point Of View* Exhibition Series in the Arts Council's main gallery in the historic Grove Arcade downtown.

Photo: left, Jana Lutovsky, center, Kitty Boniske, the founder of the Vladikavkaz Committee, right, Irene Richards



The exploratory exhibition examined the narrative work of the late Vadim Bora (international artist who was Asheville-based from 1993-2011) and fellow Vladikavkaz artists. Several never-before seen works of Bora that have been in private collections, as well as large commissioned pieces were showcased. Also highlighted were the paintings of Akhsar Esenov and Natalia Abaeva, two young artists previously in Asheville as part of a delegation with the Open World Program that the Vladikavkaz Committee of ASCI hosted a decade ago. Additionally featured was the art of colleague Murat Kaboulov, who lived in Nashville before his passing in 2010. Individual sculptures and paintings by three other Vladikavkaz artists were included, notably that of Shalva Bedoev, Vadim Bora's teacher. All the works were thematically connected to "Thoughts of Home - Cultural Identity and the Evolution of an Artist."



The month-long event saw a flurry of activity with two receptions (a private preview for ASCI members and their guests, as well as the Arts Council's public reception), a Russian Tea and Talk lecture by curator Richards, and a UNCA art history class visit, as well as multiple visitors from the area and elsewhere.

"This was such a successful exhibition on many counts," says Richards, "It raised awareness of Asheville Sister Cities in this exceptional historical downtown spot that is a draw for tourists as well as locals, and it highlighted the arts of both Asheville and Vladikavkaz, which is one of the themes that certainly connects these two cities."

"On a deeper level, the exhibition examined the works of artists who ultimately emigrated to the U.S. and how their adopted home and

original home influenced their works, as well as understanding the work of the artists who remain in their place of origin," she explains. "It was also a goal of Vadim Bora to showcase the artworks of his countrymen and women here in Asheville. We hope this is a first step in continued exchanges of artwork and artists with our sister city of Vladikavkaz."

Meet ASCI's new Public Relations person



Lori Davis comes from a farming family near Cincinnati, Ohio and has a bachelor's in English and Spanish, a Masters Degree in Student Affairs Administration, and credits towards a Masters in Fine Art. She first traveled as an exchange student in 8th grade to Toluca, Mexico where she lived with a Mexican family and enjoyed learning about cultures outside of Ohio. While in universities, she traveled to Mexico, Spain, Costa Rica, Panama, and France and during her time at Ball State University while getting a Masters in Student Affairs she interned with both the offices of Study Abroad and International Education. Lori has been specifically interested in cultural exchange and understanding, and worked at Western Carolina University for a number of years as the Assistant Director of University Programs, in charge of the Arts and Cultural Programs at the university. In this position, she worked with many cultural ambassadors, artists, and performers - including Hiram Marina and the folks from Palenque Rojo, which is when she began engaging with Asheville Sister Cities and Gwen Hughes (2010/2011). Currently, she helps manage a catering company in downtown Asheville. She has managed social media, marketing, and PR for a number of organizations and looks forward to helping ASCI with promotions and engagement in the community and world.

Visiting our sister city in Greece: Karpenisi

By traveling ASCI members Larry and Sandra Layton

An extract from a very interesting article in the Asheville Citizen-Times

It is no wonder that Karpenisi is Asheville's Sister City. There are more than 100 families in Asheville of Greek descent with 80 percent having ties to the mountain area of Karpenisi, according to Paula Apostolopoulos, who came to Asheville with her husband, Pete, in the 1960s. Many arrived just after World War II due to the devastation caused by Germany's occupation of Greece.

Asheville has been enriched by wonderful immigrants who mostly made their living in the restaurant business. Before our trip, we enjoyed many meals at many of their restaurants but never realized the connection with the Greek ownership.

We decided to stay seven weeks in Greece which have been nothing less than fantastic. We have found the people to be warm, friendly, proud and helpful. Yes, they are struggling under economic hardships, political unrest and an influx of refugees from the Middle East but they are a determined people that will prevail. We have seen protests against the economic reforms the EU and Greek politicians are introducing including several tractor-blocked roads.

As travelers who don't speak or read Greek, we have not encountered any real problems. Many road signs are in English and Greek and where they are not, we have been able to find someone who

speaks English even in remote areas. Probably our biggest difficulty is with menus written in Greek only, but many restaurants now have dual language menus. As a nod to our global world, children in Greek schools are required to start learning English from kindergarten to insure that almost all young folks are at least bilingual.

The Greek countryside is absolutely beautiful, with a coastline that is both rugged and breathtaking with stunning blue-green clear water. In the north, there are snow-capped peaks in the winter, while the coast enjoys pleasant weather reaching the 70s. The Mediterranean climate encourages orange, lemon and olive trees and a large variety of vegetables to produce in abundant amounts. The Aegean and Ionian seas supply bountiful amounts of squid, octopus and fish. In higher elevations, there are trout farms fed by clear mountain streams and valleys full of sheep, goats, pigs and cows.

Karpenisi, located in central northern Greece, is an area very similar to Asheville's in topography and has a tourist-based economy. Our mid-winter timing did not allow us to see the valley in spring abloom with yellow flowers covering the mountain slopes or taste the delicious figs and nuts that are harvested in the fall. The area is well known for its local meat, honey, grapes and organic products. In 1991, the area was named a UNESCO Research Site for being one of the most environmentally clean locations in all of Europe. Karpenisi is considered to have "a zero pollution rate."

Although vastly smaller than Asheville, at around one-tenth its size, Karpenisi boasts the reputation as the "Switzerland of Greece" for its many large fir forests and ski areas. There are many biking and hiking areas to explore, waterfalls to enjoy, rivers for kayaking and rafting and the natural beauty of its fir forests. We were able to see organic local honey unfiltered and unprocessed, a small trout farm where we bought our "catch of the day" for dinner and a local meat processing plant.

Speaking of Karpenisi...

The Karpenisi Committee and friends are preparing for their delegation visit to Karpenisi. The group consist of 13 ASCI members and 5 UNC-A students. We will assemble in Athens on May 10th for dinner together and on the 11th begin our adventure. We will visit, in addition to our four days in Karpenisi, Galaxidi, Nafpaktos, and Athens. While in Karpenisi we hope to meet with the mayor and present a letter from our own mayor; and we will meet with Leonidas, the President of the Karpenisi Sister City organization and reiterate the strength of our relationship. While in Karpenisi, many of us will be home-hosted for a true experience of the Greek life style. We are all looking forward to our big Greek adventure!

New ASCI Members

Andronikos Falagas
Monique Pinelli

Gail Jolley
Katie Ryan

Julian Martin
Phoenicia Schwidkay

Total of 148 Memberships (208 individuals)

Corporate Members: Fontaine Vineyards, Metro Wines

New Lifetime Member: Tom Jones

President - Andrew Craig	kurmugon(at)bellsouth.net
Vice President – Marjorie McGuirk	marjoriemcguirk(at)gmail.com
Secretary – Alice Keller	gakeller(at)gakeller.com
Treasurer – Inge Robert	irobert68(at)bellsouth.net
Past President – Russ Martin	rmandkk(at)attglobal.net

ASCI CALENDAR OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

ASCI Board Meeting	3 rd Thursday of each month – 5:30 pm
San Cristóbal Committee	2 nd Thursday of each month – 5:30pm <i>Greg Clemons – ncchamo(at)gmail.com</i>
Saumur Committee	4 th Thursday of each month – 5:30pm <i>Allison Weems – weems.allison(at)gmail.com</i>
Karpenisi Committee	Time and place TBA <i>Andronikos Falangas – androfal(at)yahoo.com</i>
Valladolid Committee	Last Wednesday of the month - 5:30pm <i>Karon Korp – karonkorp(at)gmail.com</i>
Osogbo Committee	3 rd Tuesday of each month – 6:00 pm <i>Andrew Craig – kurmagon(at)bellsouth.net</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.



ASHEVILLE SISTER CITIES, INC.
P. O. Box 2214
Asheville, NC 28802