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ASCI Newsletter September 2016

Promoting International Partnerships

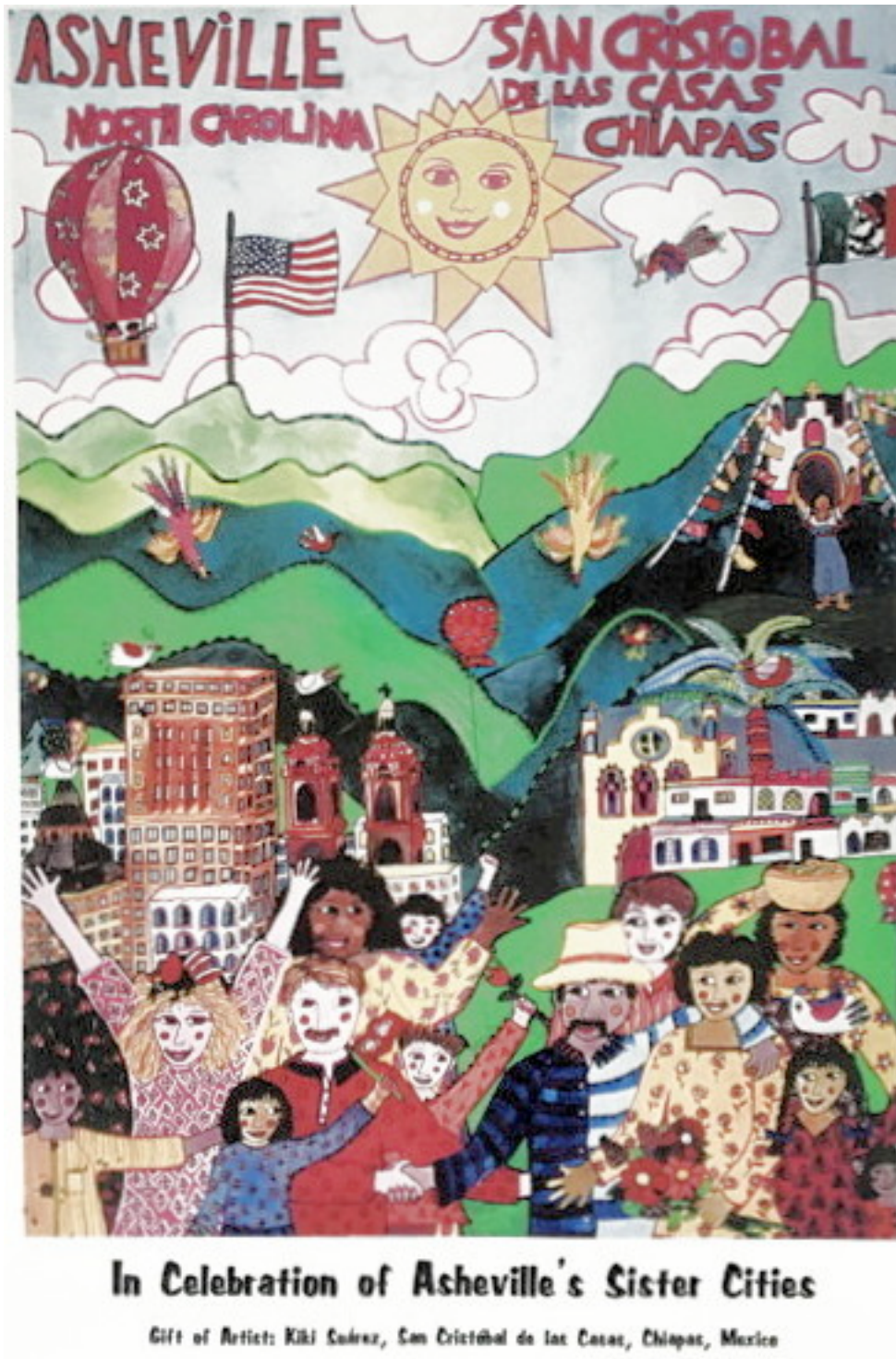


An ancient Maya tale

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

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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



This poster image was designed in 1996 by artist and longtime friend of ASCI's San Cristóbal committee, Kiki Suarez, to celebrate the sister city relationship between Asheville and San Cristobal.

The San Cristóbal de las Casas committee preparing for TzakBu!

Hola from the San Cristóbal de las Casas committee of Asheville Sister Cities. Our fall activities are kicking into high gear! Our committee, working with the ASCI Valladolid Committee, is proud to bring to Asheville once again a spectacular theater performance. **Hiram Marina**, a long-time friend of both Mexican committees, is returning to WNC with the Palenque Rojo Theatre Group for performances of a new show called *TzakBu – Queen of the Maya*. Performances will be on September 30th at 7:30pm at Western Carolina University and on October 2 at the Diana Wortham Theater in Asheville with a 2pm matinee and a 7:00pm evening show. Actors will be on the streets of Asheville Saturday night and Sunday during the day in costume so don't be surprised when you see Mayan warriors out in downtown Asheville!

A limited special sponsor ticket is available for \$100. This will provide one person with the performance, entry to a pre-show lecture at Diana Wortham Theater at 6pm, and one beverage and appetizer at Aloft's WXYZ Bar after the show. This special sponsor ticket will be good for the 7pm show ONLY at Diana Wortham. Buy your tickets NOW!

Our committee is proud to partner with the Valladolid Committee to bring this all together for our community. We are especially honored to have **The Mexican Consulate in Raleigh** as our major sponsor for TzakBu. We are planning to meet as a committee twice in September to finalize our plans for this historic visit and show, so look for an email with the dates and times of those meetings. We'd love to see you come out and see this spectacular show! As usual, please contact me, ncchamo@gmail.com or phone 561-927-8312 with your willingness to help out with these great events that are fast approaching. ¡Nos vemos pronto!, we'll see you soon!

Celebrating World Traditions—Mountain Style

(Part II: Heritage derived from Asheville's Sister City of San Cristóbal de las Casas)

By Ken Richards

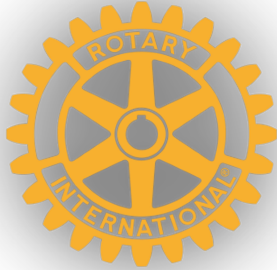


The above photo on the left depicts a delegation in 1996 that included Kitty Boniske, Jennifer Morgan, Carroll Hughes, then Asheville Vice-Mayor Barbara Field, Marita Strauss and Jane Goldthwait with local architect.

The photo on the right shows delegates from San Cristóbal at ASCI's World Congress held in the (then) Civic Center in 2005 and attended by all of our Sister Cities.

Arthur Morgan established an international school in the Celo area of North Carolina in 1937. It was there that we find people of many cultures sharing together. Jenifer Morgan of Celo was instrumental in initiating a Sister City relationship between Asheville and San Cristóbal in Chiapas, Mexico in 1996. There are several Quaker families in the area and the land trust is home to the Celo Friends Meeting as well as the **Arthur Morgan School**, Camp Celo, and the [Rural Southern Voice for Peace](#).

Agreements were signed jointly by the Mayor and Asheville City Council with that of San Cristobal de las Casas in 1994. Thus Asheville embraced a third Sister City following the first two of Vladikavkaz in Russia and Saumur in France.



ASCI illustrates that International relations begin at home and is a cooperative venture as they partnered with many local groups involving the total Asheville Community. The San Cristóbal committee of Asheville Sister Cities partnered with Rotary and the Wheelchair Foundation in several projects. One shared project with Asheville Breakfast Rotary Club was to install a water system in San Cristobal. This water project benefitted 50,000 with a clean water source year round.



People to people relations are born with delegations visiting and establishing friendship up and down the continents. Highly involved are students and faculty from Western Carolina University, Mars Hill University, Warren Wilson College and Asheville City Schools.

We celebrate the heritage of Western North Carolina as derived from the early arrival of the Paolo People 12,000 years ago ; followed by the Mayan's just "passing through", according to archeologist such as George Stewart; then the emergence of the Cherokee and now the home coming of the Mexican culture descendants of these early peoples.

Guadalupe Hermisillo Escobar of Chiapas preserves a fading folk art tradition...



by continuing to hand forge a unique form of religious art; rooftop wrought-iron crosses. the crosses display a wide mix of both Christian and indigenous symbols.

Knowing personally of Artist Guadalupe Hermisillo Escobar and his work leads us into developing richer lives by sharing the cultures, skills and tradition of others. This broadens our vision and adds color to our world.

ASCI-sponsored WCU trip to San Cristóbal

By Dr. Paul Worley, WCU professor

On the behalf of WCU and myself, many thanks to the Sister Cities San Cristobal de las Casas committee who generously supported a trip to San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas by WCU faculty and students. In addition to meeting with already existing connections in the city, the group collaborated with Maya weaving cooperatives on an upcoming exhibition of Maya textiles. The students documented trips to these cooperatives, conducted

interviews with co-op members, and helped catalogue, tag, and write descriptions for textiles that will appear in the exhibition at WCU's Bardo Fine Arts Museum and be part of the museum's permanent collection. Entitled *The Language of Weaving*, the exhibit will run from September 12 to November



7 and feature a series of talks beginning with an opening reception on September 29. We hope that the relationships we established on this trip will lead to a long-term collaboration where we can support these women's economic empowerment through the sale of their textiles here in the US. Recognizing the presence of Maya communities from Chiapas and elsewhere here in Western North Carolina, we will be installing a weaving exhibit at the Macon County Public Library in Franklin, NC, as well supporting interested Maya community members' attendance of *Tzakbu* on September 30.

BASTILLE DAY 2016

was a great success. We had close to 100 guests, some of whom were bidding during the silent auction, playing the French Revolution trivia game, and enjoying good food and the fruit of the vine. The Saumur Committee was able to add \$2,000 to the various scholarship and other ASCI funds.

Valladolid Committee Welcomes Students

By Karon Korp

In July and August we welcomed **Manuel Mena**, a senior from Valladolid whose mother, Sandra Loria came to Asheville with the official Valladolid Delegation in October 2014. Thanks to super host family Allison & Jim Sawyer, Manuel enjoyed a whirlwind visit. With an interest in pursuing medical studies, Manuel spent time with Russ Martin at the **CarePartners Adult Day Program** and with Jim Sawyer touring local dialysis centers. He spent a delightful day with Jill Kelly, owner of the **Bee Charmer** shop on Battery Park Avenue. They toured **Franny's Farm** in Leicester where Jill keeps a large part of her bee yard. They put on suits, walked through the bees and opened a few hives. They



shared the similarities and differences between beekeeping in our different countries.

A group of children who go to camp at Franny's met them and Manuel explained where he was from. He talked to them about how his family uses honey in different traditions at home and some of the children attending camp spoke to him about the "Day of the dead" celebration and how they make masks in school. Manuel told them how they celebrate the same day but in just a slightly different way.

They were also able to visit Jill's warehouse on North Louisiana Ave in West Asheville. They pulled out full frames of honey to extract and sampled some the honey from the comb. From there they went to her store and sat at the honey bar and did a thorough sampling of honey that is local, regional, several from across the US as well as many that are imported from New Zealand, Italy, France and Spain.

While waiting for his host family, they walked down to the Alternative Clinic on Broadway next to Chocolate Gems, and Jill introduced Manuel to some of the people there and he was able to see all of the shelves of various herbs that are imported from Beijing to be used in different



ways as an alternative to western medicine. Jill says, “I enjoyed my day with Manuel and look forward to seeing him next year in Valladolid!”

Also in August, the committee welcomes our newest exchange student, **Andrea Palma-Rivera** from Valladolid. Andrea will spend a year at **Asheville High School**, and we look forward to her involvement with ASCI this year!

Western North Carolina’s great wines

From Wikipedia:

Vitis rotundifolia, or **muscadine**, is a [grapevine](#) species native to the southeastern and south-central United States from [Florida](#) to [Delaware](#), west to eastern [Texas](#) and [Oklahoma](#). It has been extensively cultivated since the 16th century. The plants are well adapted to their

native warm and humid climate; they need fewer [chilling hours](#) than better known varieties and they thrive on summer heat.



Chuck Blethen during his presentation

In late July, the ASCI board was treated to a very interesting talk on WNC wines by the vintner Chuck Blethen of *Jewel of the Blue Ridge Vinyard* in Marshall, NC. Chuck’s observations on wine tasting and evaluating (even to the point of how to hold the goblet so as not to warm the cool wine!) were very welcome. In

addition, we tasted a few glorious local wines. In past newsletter issues, our own Ken Richards pointed out the role of our wines in saving the French wine cultures.

On a sad note...

Our beloved 33 page offices are no more.



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>
<i>If you have a particular interest in a committee, please contact the chairperson to confirm time & place.</i>	



ASHEVILLE SISTER CITIES, INC.

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