



Sister Cities News Bulletins

Sister Cities Education Initiative

SCAW approved four mini-grants at the December board meeting from the proceeds raised at the 2009 Beaujolais Nouveau Celebration and Fundraiser. Grants will support UNCW School of Education field experience in San Pedro, Belize; and the following schools in San Pedro – San Pedro RC Primary School, San Pedro High School and Island Bonita Primary School.

Both of the primary schools receiving an award entered a partnership with schools in Wilmington – Forest Hills International Elementary and Cape Fear Academy – to begin a cultural exchange between classrooms from second grade up to fifth grade. Addy Martinez, principal of Isla Bonita, was in Wilmington this past December and was presented with a donation of books and study guides for the school's middle grade reading program. Martinez also had the opportunity to meet with Michael Cobb, her counterpart at Forest Hills to formally launch the relationship and discuss partnership activities. Cobb reported that a package containing letters from Forest Hills second grade students would be waiting the arrival of the Isla Bonita students when they returned from the holiday break.



UNCW Intercultural Fair February 20



Addy Martinez and Michael Cobb after lunch at Eddie Romanelli's in Wilmington during the holiday break.

Veteran Artist Zhang Ding from Liaoning Province Honored

(Liaoning-Gateway 10-2-2010) Zhang Ding, considered by many in the art community as China's answer to Picasso and one of the most influential artists of the last century, was honored at the opening ceremonies for the opening of the Center for Zhang Ding Art at Tsinghua University on January 25.

Zhang was born in 1917 in Beizhen City, which is located in Liaoning Province, west of Wilmington's sister city Dandong. Zhang's creative talents surfaced at the age of 5 when he painted on a steamed bun during the family Chinese New Year celebration. Evolving into one of the most respected artists and art educators in mainland China, Zhang was commissioned in 1949 to design China's national emblem. "The red wall, golden tile and blue sky of the ancient capital Beijing represent a unique landscape among the big metropolis in the world.

Therefore I used these three colors as the basic note in the design of the national emblem," Zhang was quoted in a 2005 report by Zou Wen.

Zhang's legacy of over 70 years of creativity, with a range as broad as Picasso in terms of media, will remain an important part of Chinese culture through the Center for art research. [Zhang died of heart failure in Beijing a few weeks later on February 20, 2010.]



(Global Times) Artist Zhang Ding

Wilmington Receives Official Response from Barbados

A letter was received this January from Ms. Sonja Welch, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment, Urban and Rural Development. The official response to Wilmington's efforts to re-establish ties with its sister city, Bridgetown read, "We will maintain contact as we develop our institutional approach to Twinning through our Constituency Council framework, which is being developed....I take this opportunity to wish you and the members of the Sister Cities Association of Wilmington a very healthy and blessed 2010."

Wilmington will continue a dialogue with representatives in Barbados to help foster productive exchanges in education, commerce, culture and the arts. UNC-Wilmington has recently entered into a new agreement with University of the West Indies –Cave Hill and looks forward to student, faculty and research exchanges in the future.

SCAW Holds Annual Meeting

Officers and new board members were elected during the Sister Cities Association of Wilmington (SCAW) Annual Meeting on March 22. Brigitte Gallien and Marilyn Cantarella were elected to three year terms. Cantarella was also reelected as President of the organization. Other officers include: Jonathan Garriss, Vice President; Charles Goudiss, Treasurer; and Stephanie Walker, Secretary/Membership.

Commission Updates

The Sister City Commission announced its annual Young Artist Contest in February. Eligible students can submit their artwork by April 15 to Tracy Corle in the City Manager's Office. The theme this year is "Your World." More information can be found on the website: www.scawilmington.org. The commission will judge the submissions at its April meeting and the first prize winner will receive a cash prize of \$150.00 and the opportunity to compete internationally.

A group of officials from Dandong's local government were expected to visit Wilmington for the Azalea Festival before going on to other US cities. Just before going to print we learned the visit was cancelled.

Upcoming Events

APRIL 10-11 – The Festival of Cultures will take place from 1:00 to 5:30 PM at Bailey Park on N. Front St. during the Azalea Festival. On Saturday, the Chinese American Association will be doing a musical performance and Dreams will dazzle the crowd with a fusion of Trinidadian calypso with African dance sometimes referred to as "spouge." It has become a popular national genre that reflects Barbadian heritage and African origin.

MAY 24 – SCAW Dinner Program will start in the Downtown Library (New Hanover Room) at 6:00 PM where we will hear about current happenings with the US Peace Corp. Carol Chappell, Country Director, US Peace Corp, will share her perspective along with slides of Peace Corp initiatives. Dinner and discussion will follow at Elijah's Restaurant.

JUNE 28 – SCAW Dinner Program will start in the Downtown Library (New Hanover Room) at 6:00 PM where we will view the film: Belize: Maya Heritage. Dr. Paul, Honorary Consul to Belize, will introduce the film and lead a Q&A afterwards. Dinner and discussion will follow at the Caffe Phoenix.

Special thanks to Szechuan 132 and Joseph Hou for an amazing Chinese New Year Dinner. We'll be back next year! Also thanks to the Children's Room at the NHC Main Library for their guidance in helping SCAW make choices about the book donations for San Pedro. Volunteers are needed for this year's UNCW International Student reception (Sept.) and Harmony for Humanity (Oct). If you can help, contact marilyn@scawilmington.org.